

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Church Gunman

A gunman opened fire at a church youth performance Sunday and killed two people.

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### Twin Blasts

Two bombs exploded minutes apart in a packed Istanbul square Sunday night, killing 16.

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### \$300 Million

"The Dark Knight" obliterates box office records, crossing the \$300 million mark in just 10 days.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Local restaurants play it safe with jalapeños. **PAGE 2**  
Flaws cited in CUC green energy procurement. **PAGE 3**

## Tinian loses full-time doctor

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the recent resignation of Dr. Ronaldo Toledo, Tinian Health Center will only have a medical doctor on weekends until a replacement is hired full time.

Toledo resigned unexpectedly last week, leaving the facility without a full-time doctor, said Alexander Gorman, Department of Public Health legal counsel.

The facility is only required to have a medical doctor 30 percent of the time. A nurse practitioner and physician's assistant are working full time at the Center.

"At this point, [the Center] is meeting legal requirements," Gorman said.

See TINIAN on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDE

### LAOLAO BAY PROJECT

Workers are seen toiling on the construction site of the \$68.8 million golf resort project touted to make Saipan "the premier golf destination in the Pacific" at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort yesterday. The Golftel project is the biggest construction on the island since Hafadai Beach Hotel opened its 20-floor Taga Tower back in 1997. See more photographs on Page 6.

## Zoning to crack down on adult biz

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR

Local zoning officials are poised to begin an enforcement effort aimed at adult businesses such as strip clubs, massage

parlors or adult bookstores that have failed to comply with new laws regulating signage and building design.

"This should not come as a shock to the adult businesses," said Zoning administrator Steve Tilley in an interview

Monday. "They've known this was coming for about six months now."

At issue in the pending enforcement effort is a zoning law passed six months ago that establishes, among other rules, See ZONING on Page 4

## Congressional staff delegation to visit NMI

A congressional staff delegation composed of staff members of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary will be visiting the CNMI on Aug. 10.

The delegation will be led by group leader Tony Babauta, who is the staff director of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

"The Subcommittee on Insular Affairs has requested my office to arrange

meetings for the group. My District Office staff will be contacting those groups specified by the group leader [Babauta] to schedule the various meetings and

See CONGRESSIONAL on Page 4

Suicide hot line got calls from 22K veterans

## CONTACT POINTS

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- Call 800-273-TALK (8255); veterans should press "1" after being connected.

By KATHARINE EUPHRAT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 22,000 veterans have sought help from a special suicide hot line in its first year, and 1,221 suicides have been averted, the government says.

According to a recent RAND Corp.

See SUICIDE on Page 4



Hans Mickelson

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## Local

# Local restaurants play it safe with jalapeños

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite the Food and Drug Administration advising consumers that only jalapeños and Serrano peppers grown in Mexico are connected with a national salmonella outbreak, some local restaurants are remaining steadfast in how they use and notify the public about the produce.

"I'm really careful," said

Hard Rock assistant general manager Aldwin Cullat.

Although most of Hard Rock's shipments of jalapeños are imported from the United States, Cullat said he is not taking any chances. The restaurant has been preparing meals without using the peppers for about the last five days, once the FDA centered the outbreak on jalapeños and Serrano peppers.

On Friday, the FDA an-

nounced jalapeños and Serrano peppers grown in Mexico were connected to an outbreak; those grown in the U.S. were safe to eat. But Cullat is still keeping the foods off the plates for now.

Cullat said the lack of jalapeños and Serrano peppers have not had a large impact on the meals.

"We [buy] only about a kilo that lasts a week," he said.

But tomatoes are a differ-

ent story. Cullat said tomatoes are used more often at the restaurant.

When the FDA announced the salmonella outbreak in June, the agency initially focused on tomatoes.

Customers would sometimes ask about the lack of tomatoes when the restaurant stopped serving them with hamburgers and other foods, Cullat said.

"But they were actually happy once we explained what we were doing," he added.

Cullat said Hard Rock began using tomatoes in foods after he was given a certificate of clearance by his food supplier.

"I don't like my guests to be sick," he said. "Any issues with products, I ask the supplier for clearance."

The Subway in Garapan continues to post a message for consumers that the jalapeños and Serrano peppers have been cleared and are not part of the contaminated batch. The restaurant first notified

consumers with the sign before the FDA narrowed down Mexico as the place of origin for the outbreak.

The FDA recommends all consumers ask restaurant and store managers where the jalapeños and Serrano peppers were grown or imported from. Produce changes hands many times from farm to table, the FDA warns.

Canned jalapeños and Serrano peppers are not part of the outbreak.

## Poor accounting of federal grant pension funds scored

The NMI Retirement Fund has criticized government agencies for their poor accounting of pension contributions for employees paid with federal grant funds.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said that local recipients of federal funds have been unable to account for money that, according to the terms and conditions of the grants, should go to the pension of federally funded employees.

"Accordingly, insufficient records exist as to whether these individuals have contributed to the Retirement Fund, notwithstanding the federal grant for this purpose [payroll costs]," Aguon said in a memorandum to heads of government agencies.



standing the federal grant for this purpose [payroll costs]," Aguon said in a memorandum to heads of government agencies.

He reminded the agencies that federal grants can be used for their intended purposes only. They are not subject to the Commonwealth's ap-

propriation process.

Aguon also urged the agency heads to verify the names of employees paid with federal

grants. He said the Fund needs them not only to maintain strict accounting measures, but also to help the pension agency in drafting its budget.

"Absent a strict ac-

counting of the fed-

eral funds contributed and the individuals for whom those funds apply, the Retirement

Fund will defer processing of applications for retirement for federally funded employees," Aguon said. (Agnes E. Donato)



### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately \$300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2008 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steve Sablan's winning photograph.

### Steve Sablan, Leslie Ware win photo tilt

Steve Sablan and Leslie Ware are both winners in the second annual Flame Tree Photo Contest sponsored by Flame Tree TV. Both winners will receive prize packages valued at \$500.

The contest is held each summer and encourages CNMI residents to capture the brilliant flame trees that begin to blossom each April and display their colors best in June and July.

"Flame tree season is one of the best times of the year, and we'd like to congratulate both Steve and Leslie for capturing such nice photos. We are looking forward to featuring them in our local and visitor programming so that people can enjoy them all year round," said Flame Tree TV president Chris Nelson.

Sablan's photograph is a close-up picture of a flame tree near his Susupe home. He shot the photo digitally with a Sony 12 mega pixel camera. Sablan works locally at Seafix and has a number of talents. Not only an avid amateur photographer, he can be found playing in a rock band at various places locally.

Ware works for the TSA at the Saipan International Airport. Ware spent a number of days waiting for the right light and studying the hab-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

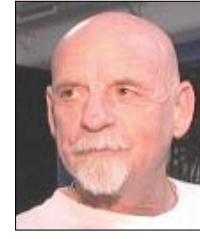
Leslie Ware's winning picture of a kingfisher and flame tree blossoms.

its of the kingfisher that is framed by the flame tree in his first place shot. The photo was taken near the Last Command Post in Marpi. He shot digitally with a Canon EOS 12 mega pixel camera. Ware is a repeat winner, as one of his photos took top honors in 2007.

The Flame Tree TV and Production Company manages and operates the local channel KSPN2, Visitors Channel 2 and Visitors Channel 3. KSPN2 News is live weekdays at 6pm. The Visitors Channels features where to go, what to do and what to see in the CNMI. Programming includes features on local restaurants, spas, hotels, shopping, tours, diving, history and culture. (PR)



Sablan



Ware

# Flaws cited in CUC green energy procurement

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Efforts by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to obtain renewable energy sources may hit

some delay after the Office of the Public Auditor found the procurement process to be flawed.

OPA said that while there was nothing improper about CUC's choice of procurement process,

the criteria set forth in the "request for proposals" were not specific enough to ensure a fair selection. OPA ordered CUC to review and modify the RFP to comply with CUC's procure-

ment regulations.

The decision was made on an appeal which Telesource CNMI Inc. filed with the OPA in February 2008. The appeal came after then CUC executive director Anthony S. Guerrero denied the company's protest regarding the RFP for grid supply renewable energy generation projects in the CNMI. Guerrero declined the protest for two main reasons. First, Telesource was not an "aggrieved party" and thus lacked standing to protest. Second, the protest was untimely.

In an eight-page decision, OPA ruled that Telesource, as a prospective proposer, was in the position to file a protest based on alleged improprieties that are apparent before the deadline for bids or proposals.

OPA also said that Telesource's protest was timely in that it was

filed well within the deadline for submission of proposals.

However, OPA disagreed with Telesource's claim that procuring alternative or renewable energy must be done by competitive sealed bidding, as opposed to competitive proposals. OPA maintained that the CUC director had the authority to use the RFP process, and his decision to use such process was justified.

Yet, OPA said, CUC violated procurement regulations by merely listing factors that will be evaluated in the RFP, without stating how they weigh against each other. "Merely listing factors that will be evaluated in an RFP with no statement of their relative importance is typically a questionable technique for disclosing the relative importance of the factors," OPA said.

CUC has received proposals

from six different companies that want to provide renewable energy to the Commonwealth. Although the submission period has ended, no contract has been awarded yet.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said yesterday that the evaluation committee will meet later this week to discuss OPA's decision and its implications on the procurement process.

The six proposers were identified as New Seoul Corp. and Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc., both located on Saipan; OCCEES Ocean Engineering & Energy Systems of Hawaii; Leminatec Investment LLC of Florida; United Systems Engineering Co. Ltd. of Taiwan; and Lucid Energy Technologies LLC of Indiana.

CUC may select more than one contractor.

## NMI court employee in pot scandal resigns

CNMI courts building superintendent Joe Guzman has resigned effective last Wednesday "for personal reasons," *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Courts spokesperson Gin Gridley said CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan accepted Guzman's resignation.

Gridley said she has no information as to when Guzman submitted his resignation letter to Demapan. She said that's the only information she could provide.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents and local police

officers, seized several marijuana plants during a three-day operation on Saipan and Tinian last week.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from sources that during the operation on Saipan, a CNMI courts employee was taken by DEA agents to their office in Garapan. A judiciary's van used by the employee was also seized.

Until now, it is not clear if the court employee was arrested or only questioned. His name was not released by authorities but KSPN TV identi-

fied him as Guzman.

A check with the courts indicated that Guzman has not been reporting for work since last Wednesday.

DEA agents used a helicopter to search for marijuana plants on Saipan on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, sources said, DEA agents moved to Tinian where they seized many marijuana plants.

As of yesterday, Guzman has not been charged either in federal or local courts. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## BoG sues ex-Fund chief, wife over \$.8M loan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deletorres@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Bank of Guam has sued former Retirement Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes and his wife over alleged non-payment of an \$867,800 loan.

The bank sued Reyes and his wife Virginia for breach of contract, conversion, and unjust enrichment.

The bank also named as co-defendants tenants of the Reyes couple's King's Plaza commercial building who may have claims in the mortgaged building and lot.

The tenants are Herman P. Sablan; CNMI-USA IBPC, also known as IBPC or International Business and Professional College; Benigno T. Fejeran; Modern Investments Inc., owner of Saipan Ocean View Hotel; Karl Reyes Jr.; Sallie Sablan; Northern Mariana Islands Council for Humanities; and MP Corp., owner of Mercy's Beauty/Barber Shop.

The bank, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the Superior Court to find the Reyes couple liable to pay the bank \$867,800 plus \$14,731 in pre-judgment interest.

When contacted for comment yesterday, Karl T. Reyes said he had already turned over the King's Plaza property to Sablan and IBPC since last October and that under their agreement they're supposed to be paying the bank directly and not him.

"I might be forced to open it

[property] up for sale to anybody who can make the payment [to the bank]," he said.

The bank asked the court to order that the real properties given as security for the Reyes couple's promissory note be sold and that proceeds of the sale be used to pay the balance due.

It also asked for an order that all defendants and all persons claiming under them be barred and foreclosed of all right, claim or equity of redemption or other interest in the real property.

The plaintiff also sought for an order against all defendants and all persons claiming under them that the collateral assignment of leases and rents be directed to the bank and be applied to the payments of the balance due.

Karl T. Reyes and Virginia Reyes obtained a loan of \$889,523.75 from BOG on Aug. 25, 2006.

Torres said the Reyes couple are in default on the promissory note and have failed to make any payment on the notice since Oct. 31, 2007. As of March 10, 2008, he said, the Reyes defendants owe the bank \$882,800 in principal, interest, and late fees.

Torres said that on April 25, 2008, a letter regarding automatic revocation of license for collection of rents and notice of default on the bank loan was served on the Reyes couple.

The lawyer said that on May 6, 2008, tenants and lessees of King's Plaza were served with

the bank's notice of assignment to remit all future rent payments to the bank's attorney's office effective May 1, 2008.

"Despite demand from plaintiff and despite having acknowledged the outstanding balance due, the Reyes defendants have refused and failed and continuously refuse and fail to make their payments," Torres said.

Instead, Torres said, Karl T. Reyes signed a limited power of attorney appointing Sablan as his attorney-in-fact regarding the mortgage on King Plaza and the Reyes' loan with BOG.

The lawyer said the bank has since learned that on Sept. 27, 2007, Karl T. Reyes executed an assignment of property assigning to CNMI-USA International Business & Professional College the use of the lot, including the King's Plaza.

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### Commonwealth Development Authority REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: 2008-CDA-05-RFP

Closing Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

### "INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the specifications may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 1st Floor, Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Saipan, during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO  
Acting CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S

# 'Alien workers should never stop speaking out'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal has urged alien workers to speak out for their political rights and that of their children.

"Speak out and stand firm for justice and for political rights for yourselves and your children. I stand united with you always," said Doromal in her speech during a welcome party prepared by some alien workers' groups at Garapan Central Park Saturday night.

She said social justice and true reform cannot be achieved merely through legislation but by changing people's hearts through speaking out and education.

The human rights advocate arrived on Saipan with her daughter on Friday. She will be in the CNMI for two weeks to meet and interview alien workers and their families.

Doromal will be highlighting issues that guest workers would like to see considered for inclusion in the regulations governing the "federalization" law, Public Law 110-229, in an updated status report to be presented to federal officials.

"Every worker deserves and should request fair treatment while working



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Human rights advocate Wendy L. Doromal delivers her remarks while hundreds of non-resident workers listen during a welcome party hosted by the Human Dignity Movement for Doromal and her daughter Nani at Garapan Central Park Saturday night.

on U.S. soil," she said, to loud applause from about a hundred workers of different nationalities.

Doromal said every long-term guest worker and every alien worker who is a parent of a U.S. citizen should be given a green card.

She asked nonresident workers to speak with a united voice and shout

down propaganda such as the notion that if given green cards the guest workers would abandon the CNMI—a place "that most consider their home."

She stressed that a free and open labor market would result in the economic recovery of the CNMI.

"As long as guest workers remain disenfranchised—whether under a local

labor system or a federal system—the CNMI will not have a free labor market to grow the economy," she said.

Doromal said local and federal labor and immigration laws that promote indentured servitude and regard guest workers as replaceable commodities must be replaced with laws that provide for the rights of all the people who call the CNMI home.

"It is morally wrong to look at guest workers as disposable commodities, rather than as future citizens," she said. "An exclusive society that disenfranchises a major portion of the population from political and social rights will not prosper politically, socially, morally, or economically."

With respect to rumors and concerns about the federalization law, Doromal said regulations and policies for the new law and federal guest worker program are being formulated now so no one can predict what they will look like.

She said federal officials have promised that the CNMI will have the needed workforce through the new federal program.

Doromal said the regulations will impact three major areas—federal guest worker program including labor and immigration policies, policies for foreign

investment, and access to tourists.

She encouraged guest workers to focus primarily on the issues that will directly affect them such as the status of long-term guest workers, status of parents of U.S. citizen children, and a system of speedy processing for guest workers who qualify for H-1 and H-2 visas.

Other important issues, she cited, are the application of the U.S. asylum laws to the CNMI and a just federal guest worker program.

Doromal said regulations will also have to be formulated to address the status of people who were granted CNMI permanent residency in the 1970s and 1980s, and the alien spouses of citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia.

She said a just guest worker program requires oversight, adequately trained and staffed offices, and strict enforcement of all labor and immigration laws.

"It is not enough to merely change the name of the guest worker program from the CNMI guest worker program to the federal guest worker program," she said.

Doromal said the new guest worker program must reflect democratic and constitutional principles, "otherwise it will be as dysfunctional as the existing program."

## Reyes on rumors: What indictment?

The Filial administration yesterday downplayed rumors that federal agents have either arrested or questioned Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez in relation to a probe on a \$1-million power plant repair deal.

"It's troubling that this kind of stories have been spreading," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. "It's all allegations and hearsay at this time. I think we just have to wait until we get tangible evidence or hear from the feds."

Villagomez remains silent about the unconfirmed reports. His staff members told the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday

that the lieutenant governor is back from New York but he did not come in to work. Phone calls made to his house were not answered. At press time, Villagomez has not replied to an e-mail seeking confirmation of the reports.

The rumors started after the Federal Bureau of Investigation subpoenaed a host of former and current employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to testify as part of a probe. The FBI is investigating a federally funded contract for the repair of a Saipan power plant. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., with Villagomez's approval, inked the

delegation reportedly wants to make sure that the intent of Public Law 110-229 is being met and, to the greatest extent possible, minimize any adverse economic and fiscal effects as the law is implemented.

"The staff delegation will also focus on programs that will be providing training for our local people for jobs in the private sector. They want to see what our resources are and how we are providing better opportunities for locals. Vocational training and job preparedness are vital in insuring a secure future for our people, and something that I pushed hard for in the legislation," said Tenorio.

The upcoming congressional staff

deal with Commonwealth Industrial Supply Corp. in 2006. CISCO failed to deliver on its part of the contract.

According to Reyes, the Governor's Office has not received word from the U.S. government about the federal probe.

"There's a lot of uncertainty, there's a lot of speculations. As far as I know, we haven't received an official notice from any federal agency about an arrest or a pending indictment. If this is true, we'll just have to wait for them [federal government] to act and probably take it from there," Reyes said. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

"I think that these meetings are important and that Congress remains engaged in the process. I am also pleased to see so many individuals and groups interested in the development of the regulations for this law. I have encouraged DHS officials as well as congressional staff to listen to the businesses community, government officials, the general public and other non-government organizations. Local input is vital to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security drafts regulations that are realistic, responsive to our unique needs, and helpful in our critical effort for our economy recovery," said Tenorio. (*PR*)

conform to its standards.

"It's in their interests to comply now," Tilley added.

The enforcement effort comes after the CNMI Zoning Board last month approved a series of proposed zoning regulations concerning adult businesses for public review. Key to the proposal is a plan to establish a so-called "adult business overlay zone," an area along Middle Road where, according to its text, adult businesses would be concentrated and would have to obey rules on signs, location and other design elements. If approved, adult businesses would have one year to relocate to the zone.

"The longer they wait, the less flexibility they will have with the zoning rules," Tilley said. "And the adult overlay zone might not hold all the adult

businesses on Saipan."

The adult overlay zone has yet to be formally created, but in the mean time, Tilley said, many adult businesses need to change their signs if they want to stay in operation.

"At some point, we're going to start issuing notices of violation," Tilley said.

Meanwhile, the board has received only one proposal regarding the second aspect of the newly proposed adult business zoning rules, the creation of an "adult business park." Officials with the Department of Commerce have suggested the now defunct La Fiesta Mall, a sprawling empty retail site, could serve as an ideal location for such a park because its design will help government regulators and police enforce local laws there.

## TINIAN

*From Page 1*

The Center is trying to fill the position immediately, he said.

Gorman said the lack of a full-time doctor would not change patient care.

"Any major problems are shipped [to Saipan]," he added.

Gorman said doctors from Saipan

## SUICIDE

*From Page 1*

study, roughly one in five soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan displays symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, putting them at a higher risk for suicide. Researchers at Portland State University found that male veterans are twice as likely to commit suicide than men who are not veterans.

This month, a former Army medic, Joseph Dwyer, who was shown in a Military Times photograph running through a battle zone carrying an Iraqi boy, died of an accidental overdose after struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder for almost five years.

Janet Kemp, national suicide prevention coordinator for the Veterans Affairs Department, said the hot line is in place to help prevent deaths such as Dwyer's. "We just want them to know there's other options and people do care about them, and we can help them make a difference in their lives," she said in an interview.

The VA teamed up with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to launch the hot line last July after years of criticism that the VA wasn't doing enough to help wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In April, two veterans groups sued the VA, citing long delays for processing applications and other problems in treatment for veterans at risk for suicide. The department has spent \$2.9 million on the hot line thus far.

The hot line receives up to 250 calls per day—double the average number calling when it began. Kemp said callers are divided evenly between veterans from the Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam

would continue to go to Tinian Friday through Sunday until a replacement is found.

H. Christine Brown, a family practice doctor from Saipan, traveled to Tinian over the weekend to provide care.

Gorman said he is unsure if Brown, who was a doctor at Island Medical Center at one time, will return this weekend or if another doctor will travel to the island.

wars. Richard McKeon, public health adviser for SAMHSA, said 10 to 20 of the 1,575 calls received each week have to be rerouted to high-volume backup call centers throughout the country.

The VA estimates that every year 6,500 veterans take their own lives. The mental health director for the VA, Ira Katz, said in an e-mail last December that of the 18 veterans who commit suicide each day, four to five of them are under VA care, and 12,000 veterans under VA care are attempting suicide each year.

This month, the hot line began an advertising campaign in Washington area subway stations and buses featuring the slogan, "It takes the courage and strength of a warrior to ask for help."

The veterans hot line, which is linked to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, received 55,000 callers in its first year, including both veterans and people who are concerned about them, according to figures being released Monday. One-third of the 40 specially trained counselors are veterans themselves.

"We try to get them (callers) to talk about their situation and what they remember and see if they can identify exactly what their issues are. I think there's a comfort in knowing that they can get some help from people who do understand what combat stress is like," Kemp said.

From the call center, counselors instantly can check a veteran's medical records and then connect the caller to local VA suicide prevention coordinators for follow-up, monitoring and care at local VA medical centers. Kemp said that since the hot line started, 106 veterans have been steered to free medical care from the VA.

## CONGRESSIONAL

*From Page 1*

courtesy calls," said Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio.

The delegation will be meeting with some of the groups and individuals that met last month when staff from the Department of Homeland Security visited the CNMI. Officials from the U.S. DHS and other federal agencies tasked with drafting new federal labor and immigration rules for the CNMI came to the Northern Marianas July 11-16 to begin talks on the regulations.

Richard McKeon, public health adviser for SAMHSA, said 10 to 20 of the 1,575 calls received each week have to be rerouted to high-volume backup call centers throughout the country.

The upcoming congressional staff

## ZONING

*From Page 1*

criteria for the signs outside adult businesses. The law, slated to take effect Aug. 1, requires that adult business signs not display any sexually explicit language or graphics. In addition, the new law bars adult businesses from advertising with neon signs and signs lit from underneath, and requires that parking areas have sufficient lighting. It also carries restrictions on the noise level of an establishment, prohibiting the use of loudspeakers.

Most adult businesses on Saipan, Tilley said, are not complying with the new law now and could face daily \$1,000 fines or possible criminal penalties for failing to

The VA estimates that every year 6,500 veterans take their own lives. The mental health director for the VA, Ira Katz, said in an e-mail last December that of the 18 veterans who commit suicide each day, four to five of them are under VA care, and 12,000 veterans under VA care are attempting suicide each year.

This month, the hot line began an advertising campaign in Washington area subway stations and buses featuring the slogan, "It takes the courage and strength of a warrior to ask for help."

The veterans hot line, which is linked to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, received 55,000 callers in its first year, including both veterans and people who are concerned about them, according to figures being released Monday. One-third of the 40 specially trained counselors are veterans themselves.

"We try to get them (callers) to talk about their situation and what they remember and see if they can identify exactly what their issues are. I think there's a comfort in knowing that they can get some help from people who do understand what combat stress is like," Kemp said.

From the call center, counselors instantly can check a veteran's medical records and then connect the caller to local VA suicide prevention coordinators for follow-up, monitoring and care at local VA medical centers. Kemp said that since the hot line started, 106 veterans have been steered to free medical care from the VA.

# Police bust alleged copper wire theft gang

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Police arrested Friday a man allegedly responsible for stealing copper wire from houses in Dandan and Kagman.

Shabbo C. Sablan, 20, was served with a warrant of arrest in Dandan for criminal mischief and conspiracy to commit theft.

Sablan's alleged companions—Tara Marie Namauleg and Bradley C. Palacios—were tagged as Sablan's potential co-defendants and were brought last Wednesday to the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau.

A \$10,000 cash bail was initially imposed for Sablan's temporary liberty.

In yesterday's hearing, Super-

ior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo set the preliminary hearing for 9am on Aug. 6, 2008.

Govendo appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Sablan in the case. Assistant Public Defender Janet King appeared in court to represent the defendant.

Detective George Fleming David stated in his report that an anonymous caller informed a police sergeant that Sablan and two other persons were responsible for stealing copper wire (electrical power drop-lines) from houses in Dandan and Kagman.

The informant disclosed that the group operates between 12am and sunrise out of a fully tinted Toyota Yaris.

David disclosed that a team of detectives was assembled last

Tuesday to saturate Dandan and Kagman and conduct surveillance on the car.

David said the first team of detectives spotted the Toyota Yaris in upper Dandan heading north on the main road toward San Vicente Wednesday at 12:45am.

The detectives followed the car, which then parked at a poker arcade near Hi-Mart. The car later proceeded to Papago and the Kagman Mobil Gas Station.

The detectives later found that Namauleg was alone in the car.

As the other detectives swept the Kagman area, they spotted Palacios hiding in a small grassy patch along a secondary road.

The detectives chased Palacios, who ran toward a house and into the grassy field area where he then attempted to

hide. David said he then apprehended Palacios.

At that time, the surveillance squad noticed that the suspect car had left the Kagman Mobil Station and was heading toward Palacios' hiding spot.

David said Palacios and Namauleg had identified Sablan as being involved with them but that he managed to run when the detectives arrived.

Palacios told police that Sablan had arranged the copper wire theft from the newly constructed house owned by Rudy Babauta.

Sablan allegedly pried open the meter box before he fled.

David said the total damage by to the cut copper wire and the weather head meter box was over \$250.

## AmeriCorps looking for qualified members

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

As part of the AmeriCorps Program, Doriann Libunao helped fourth graders improve their reading skills. But, Doriann said, the children taught her some things as well.

"It's like you learn from them and they learn from you," she said.

Libunao, who graduated from Saipan Southern High School in May, said during her time as a volunteer, she improved her self-esteem and bonded with the younger students.

The first day "the kids looked at me and I got scared," she said. "But then, when I was gone for a day, they would ask where I was."

As an AmeriCorps Program member, Libunao is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Members are paid a monthly stipend, and after the successful completion of 900 hours of community service, they are eligible for an Education Award worth \$2,362.50.

Bonitalyn Babauta, who also graduated in May from Saipan Southern High School, said she "loved" teaching first graders.

"I'm just glad that I did something that made a difference in someone's life," she said.

CNMI/PSS AmeriCorps Program Director Geri Willis said the program not only helps members, it benefits the community as a whole. "It helps them in the future," she said. "They're making a huge difference."

Many volunteers choose to go into public service later on, Willis said.

Members receive specialized training in Infant/Child CPR, building relationships with children, child growth and development, learning styles, and reading comprehension, among other training skills, before they head into the classrooms.

Students can now begin applying for the program.

Selection criteria:

- Application—Obtain from school principal or AmeriCorps office

- Copy of high school transcript stating that you have at least a 2.5 overall GPA on a

4.0 scale

- At least 17 years old to be a member. Anyone can be an AmeriCorps volunteer. Members must show proof of U.S. citizenship, U.S. National, or lawful permanent resident of the U.S. Individuals in the U.S. with a work, student or

tourist Visa are not eligible to be a member.

- Excellent attendance record from high school
- Two references with one being from a teacher
- Parent recommendation form
- One to two page essay

on, "Why I want to become a teacher"

- Police clearance (due after selected)
- Health clearance (due after selected)
- Insurance liability coverage/release of liability letter (due after selected)

# Taotao Tano faults MPLT land deal

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Activist group Taotao Tano is crying foul over a controversial plan by the Marianas Public Land Trust to purchase private land for its new office building.

Taotao Tano in a July 28 letter is urging MPLT to use public land for its new offices, citing the recent offer by the Office of the Public Auditor to have the Trust use one of its buildings for free.

"[T]here are sound and available vacant lots and buildings with our government such as the recent offer made by the Office of Public Auditor," Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. writes in the letter. "We do not believe that all efforts were made to find the proper and suitable office space for MPLT, rather than concentration on the private land purchase was made a top priority."

MPLT chair Alvaro Santos has said there are some questions about which agency would have the power to grant the Trust

use of the land should MPLT accept OPA's offer.

Cruz also asks why MPLT began work on the land deal in December 2007 but never announced it, noting that OPA was unaware of it until MPLT began finalizing the plan in May 2008.

Cruz also requests in the letter a host of documents related to the land deal, including a 2007 legal opinion and several memos that were left out of MPLT's response to an Open Government Act request Taotao Tano filed in search of information on the deal.

MPLT has already moved out of its previous offices and into a temporary home in the Oleai area, according to a government staff member. Officials with the trust could not be reached for comment at press time. However, Santos has said previously that the trust weighed several possible locations for the new offices, including many public sites, and only chose the private land it selected because it was the best suited to the trust's needs.

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**CONNECT**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An artist's perspective of the new restaurant being built at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The way it looks right now.

# LaoLao Bay's 'golftel' project takes off

The LaoLao Bay Golf Resort is moving ahead with its \$68.8 million golf hotel—or “Golftel”—a complex with condominium-style apartments for golf tourists. A yellow crane now towers over the resort and the air away from its sprawling golf course is abuzz with the sound of drills, welding and hammering.

The resort has completed laying its foundation while the project’s managers push ahead with expanding the nearby clubhouse and restaurant. Here are some pictures of what’s happening now and the expected outcome once the project is completed.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The way it looks right now.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An artist's perspective of how the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's \$68.8 million golf hotel will look once the project is finished.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An artistic rendering of the lobby of the \$68.8 million golf hotel-or “Golftel” at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An artist's perspective of the front entrance to LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's \$68.8 million golf hotel-or “Golftel”—a complex with condominium-style apartments for golf tourists.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An artist's perspective of the front exit of LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's \$68.8 million golf hotel-or “Golftel”.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The way it looks right now.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The way it looks right now.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The way it looks right now.

# TENTH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS

# Guam wins bid to host festival in 2016



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dancers from Guam performing at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa.

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa**—Guam Gov. Felix Camacho has signed a letter of support for Guam to host the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts.

Last Wednesday, members of the Council of Pacific Arts, meeting in American Samoa during the 10th edition of the festival, unanimously endorsed Guam's bid to host the 2016 event.

Camacho made a brief visit to American Samoa to sign the letter on Friday before flying back to Apia to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He said that Guam was extremely honored to be selected.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for Guam to share with our Pacific Island brothers and sisters and enhance and develop our relationships," he said. "I know that the community will come together for this and the people of Guam will be ecstatic to host this festival."

He said Guam would learn from the current festival in American Samoa as well as the next one in Solomon Islands.

While in American Samoa, the Guam governor visited the festival village and said he was struck by the great diversity of cultures and, at the same time, the commonality that existed in many areas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Felix Camacho of Guam with Guam's head of delegation, Sylvia Flores, in American Samoa.

val as it has hosted other major logistical events such as the South Pacific Games in 1999.

The head of Guam's delegation to the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts, Sylvia Flores, says the next step will be to establish a task force to examine the best way to go about hosting the event.

She says Guam will also work closely with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. SPC offers technical support to countries hosting the Festival of Pacific Arts. (SPC)

"To come to venues like this with the arts and everything related to them is fantastic. It helps that it's not just government to government but people to people. And you can't beat the combination of culture and arts," he said.

Camacho also caught up with the Guam delegation attending the festival. He said young people were well represented in the delegation, which was an advantage as they would be the advocates and supporters for the Guam event in eight years time.

"The young people are our best ambassadors here," he said.

He believes Guam can meet the challenge of hosting the festival as it has hosted other major logistical events such as the South Pacific Games in 1999.

## Solomon Islands prepares early for 11th Festival of Pacific Arts

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa**—Solomon Islands representatives at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa say they have already begun preparations to host the 11th edition of the festival.

The head of the Solomon Islands delegation in American Samoa, Robert Au, has told the Council of Pacific Arts, which oversees the promotion of culture in the Pacific including preparations for the Festival of Pacific Arts, that Solomon Islands has set itself a firm schedule for completing all arrangements in time for the 2012 festival.

Au says the Council is happy with the timeline Solomon Islands has set. "It's the implementation part that is always difficult because it depends heavily on financial issues."

Solomon Islands is well represented at the 10th Festival with a total of 106 artists. A team of observers from the Solomon Islands festival organizing committee is also in American Samoa to note recommendations and observe requirements for hosting the 11th festival.

Au says Solomon Islands will learn from American Samoa's strengths and weaknesses. The organizing committee will try and emulate the general set up of the 10th festival, including venues, accommodation and meal arrangements, but will also try to avoid some of the hiccups, such as too many last-minute program changes.

Funding is the major challenge anticipated by the Solomon Islands committee. However, it is confident it will secure the necessary finance as the government, which is the main sponsor, has committed its support. The organizing committee will also seek donor funding.

In terms of infrastructure, there are plans to

build a rugby stadium and an art gallery before the event, says Au.

"Honiara already has a football stadium, which is the main venue for such events, and a museum," he says. "All that is required is to give these facilities a facelift."

Accommodation should not be a problem as Honiara has several options including two large, five-star hotels, Au says. Solomon Islands College of Higher Education and King George VI School will provide the main accommodation facilities for country delegations.

The National Referral Hospital in Honiara and a number of private clinics will offer health services and the organizing committee plans to engage additional health care.

Au says the safety of delegates is a priority. Security will be ensured by Solomon Islands police with the assistance of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

The festival is a chance to counter the negative media publicity of the last few years and create a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert Au, head of Solomon Islands delegation at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Islanders in American Samoa publicizing the next festival.

positive impact on the tourism industry, says Au. "It is an opportunity to show other countries that Solomon Islands is a safe place to visit and live."

He believes hosting the festival will assist Solomon Islands to bid for other regional events such as the Pacific Games. Hosting the first Melanesian Arts Festival in 1998 was a strong argument in its bid to host the 11th festival, Au says.

"We know if the 11th Festival is successful, it will help us get to the next level of hosting other regional and international events," he says.

Meanwhile, the Council of Pacific Arts is already looking forward to the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts and has unanimously approved a bid by Guam to host the 2016 event. (SPC)



## PIC hosts Red Cross water safety training

A weeklong water safety instructors class taught by a visiting instructor from California has resulted in 12 new Red Cross-certified water safety instructors in the Commonwealth.

The class was held at the Pacific Islands Club under the auspices of the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The training involved almost 40 hours of instruction with water and classroom work as well as teaching simulations. The participants learned advanced water safety training as well as how to teach the Red Cross "Learn to Swim" skill levels.

Top row, from left, are Mike Villagomez, Sarah Yap Brostrom, and Kristina Springer. Standing, from left, are Stan Good, Tammy Winkfield, Jessica Belcher, Lindsey Sossovec, and Karen Buettner. In the water, from left, Cooper Graf, Rezne Wong, Shin Kimura, Reymond Negara, and Lucio Aldan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Having all these new Red Cross-trained swimming instructors will really improve the level of instruction currently available on island," said Mary Ann Taman, Health and Safety Administrator.

"The Pacific Islands Club is a great community partner by donating access to their pool and classroom facilities," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Red Cross Chapter.

Hirsh also cited Cole Pritchard, Glenn Policare and the staff and management of PIC for their generosity. (PR)

# NMC staff complete software training



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College staff pose for a photo after completing a two-week training session for PowerCampus, a student services enhancement software program. With them is Sue Tosh, standing third from left, who facilitated the training.

Staff of the Northern Marianas College recently completed a two-week training session to learn about a software upgrade that is designed to enhance student experience as well as improve the services provided by the college.

The PowerCAMPUS Unified Digital Campus program will afford NMC staff access to a more secure and user-friendly database. The upgrade is also aimed at providing students a quicker and more pleasant registration experience for the upcoming fall semester, as the software is expected to speed up the billing portion of registration. It also places NMC a

step closer to providing online registration and affording students online access to grades and unofficial transcripts.

"The training is part of the college's overall efforts to continuously build staff capacity to improve the services that we provide to our students," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "This upgrade is instrumental to the college's efforts to regain accreditation and optimizes the college's ability to meet data and evidence requirements for program and review assessment."

Attendees of the training finished the sessions with the knowledge and skills to oper-

ate the software upgrade, which will provide for better records management and processing and will enhance the college's ability to keep track of students' portfolios and alumni career patterns and changes.

"Reports that had to be produced manually before now require only the push of a button," Fernandez said. "This is definitely a big plus for productivity."

The training sessions, which were facilitated by software company SunGard Higher Education, occurred in two parts. SunGard's Sue Tosh conducted training in the fields of admissions and records from July 16 to July 24 and Mary Grace Hen-

dricks conducted training in the fields of billing and cash receipts from July 22 to July 25.

Elizabeth Holland, an independent contractor, was also available from July 24 to July 26 for training and the integration of PowerCampus to MIPS, a software program that NMC already uses for its financial transactions and reports.

All of the visiting consultants commended the staff and faculty who participated in the training for their enthusiasm and excitement. Sue Tosh indicated that the NMC participants were the friendliest and most motivated that she has ever encountered in her training career. (NMC)

## New king of Wallis is crowned

**SUVA, Fiji** (Oceania Flash/PIR)—The new King of Wallis, Kapiliele (Gabriel) Faupala, 68, was crowned Friday in front of some two thousand people, chiefs and officials from the French Pacific islands, as well as New Caledonia.

The ceremony, which was broadcast live on the French Overseas Television network RFO, followed the announcement mid-July from the island's traditional council of ministers, who said Faupala was their choice to succeed late Tomasi Kulimoetoke, who died in May 2007 after a record 48 years of reign.

For the past four years, Faupala had been heading what is

locally referred to as the Customary Council of Ministers, a body that enjoys a certain form of recognition from the ruling French authorities under the 1961 status of Overseas Territory signed with France by Kulimoetoke.

Faupala, locally known as the Kalai Ki Valu, is also a retired public servant, in the French administration and the local public works department, where he served until 1995, local television RFO reported at the weekend.

He hails from the village of Ahoa, in the centre of Wallis Island.

On Friday, the coronation was the culminating point of a series of elaborate traditional cere-

mories, involving traditional gifts and a kava ceremony.

The ceremonies, which took place on the main grounds of the capital Mata'Utu (the Marae Sagatosoane, where Tomasi Kulimoetoke was buried in May 2007), also took place in the presence of the French Secretary General to the Administrator Superior of Wallis and Futuna, who is currently out of Wallis.

Faupala has also chosen to retain the name of Lavelua.

A strong delegation also flew from neighbouring New Caledonia, which is also home to a 20,000-strong community from Wallis and Futuna.

The two islands of Wallis and Futuna are home to three Kingdoms: one on Wallis and two on Futuna.

The late King of Wallis, Tomasi Kulimoetoke, died in May 2007 aged 87.

He had been crowned in 1959 and had ruled uninterrupted for a record 48 years.

Two years after his coronation, in 1961, Kulimoetoke signed a pact with France that granted both Wallis and Futuna islands the official status of "French Overseas Territory".

Wallis and Futuna islands, located Northeast of Fiji, are populated by around fifteen thousand inhabitants.

## Tonga coronation seen as unifying force

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fiji Times/PIR)—Enormous benefits from this week's coronation of Tonga's King George Tupou V will flow to every part of the kingdom, Tonga's Prime Minister Dr Feleti Sevele says.

Matangi Tonga Online said the coronation would be another memorable milestone in Tonga's long and proud history.

"It is part of our life and who we are. It will be a joyous celebration of culture, custom and kinship in the only Polynesian Kingdom," said Dr Sevele.

"There will be a renewal of our sense of nationhood and the togetherness which defines Tonga. The country's image will be taken to the world."

Former Fiji President Ratu

Sir Kamisese Mara's eldest daughter Adi Ateca Ganilau is attending the coronation on a private invitation.

It is unclear whether Fiji will take gifts to the celebrations, what they will be and their costs.

Attempts to contact Foreign Ministry officials yesterday proved futile.

"We will unite as Tongans for

the formal accession to the throne of a monarch who is committed to modernisation and change, while preserving the essential qualities of our Tongan identity and values," Dr Sevele said.

He said the coronation would give the economy a significant boost that would cover the \$5 million [US\$2.45 million] cost budgeted by the Government.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**July 29, 1999**

### To settle CUC bills, Tenorio eyes more belt-tightening

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio pledged yesterday to settle its mounting utility bills, saying the government will have to tighten its belt further to meet growing financial obligations. He, however, did not say when his administration will make payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to reduce its \$6.8 million in unpaid billings that have accumulated over the past six months.

### Teacher absenteeism in region exceeds US average

The rate of absenteeism among teachers in Micronesia is higher than the national average in the United States, according to a study by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning or PREL. The study, which covered all eight island states and entities, showed that teachers in Micronesia are "away from their classrooms" on an average of 11 days.

### Tenorio backs memo against entry of PROC nationals

Admitting the move was prompted by "misleading" reports that Chinese nationals can apply for asylum in the CNMI, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday backed the Department of Labor and Immigration to halt again issuance of new entry permits to citizens of mainland China. He said the People's Republic of China is included among the "high-risk" countries and that their workers and visitors intending to travel to the Northern Marianas must seek first DOLI's approval.

**July 29, 2002**

### NMI tourism industry choking

The Northern Marianas is bracing for another slow year in visitor arrivals, with its top tourism market Japanese travelers reportedly planning to cut back on overseas trips this summer. This translates to another bad news for the Commonwealth, whose ailing economy is beset with declining government revenue from the garment manufacturing sector.

### DPS chief: Enough is enough

Despite efforts to cut back on overtime, Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho has called on DPS officers to come back and spend extra hours monitoring Saipan's streets, in response to the spate of criminal activities predominantly burglaries and robberies in the community. I am fed up already with all these kinds of activities, no matter how petty they are. Obviously, they are becoming more and more serious. There are all kinds of articles telling the folks in Japan that Saipan is not a good place to visit anymore because you get robbed in the beach, in your own hotel room, while walking down the street. And that's not going to help us out, a stern Camacho said Friday.

### ...as Babauta commits more money for MVA

Gov. Juan N. Babauta acknowledged the need to better promote the Commonwealth as a tourist destination, as he commits to giving the Marianas Visitors Authority more campaign money in the next fiscal year. Babauta disclosed that more than \$5 million in budgetary increases would be made not just for the MVA but also for the Departments of Public Safety and of Labor and Immigration, among other government offices.

**July 29, 2003**

### OPM tightens noose on drug users

An estimated 9 percent of all random drug tests implemented among government employees in Fiscal Year 2002 yielded positive results for illegal drug use. This translates to almost one in 10 employees who were found positive for drug use, according to the Office of Personnel Management.

### Babauta touts investment incentives

Before a diversified group of 750 business leaders in Japan, Gov. Juan N. Babauta reportedly made a sales pitch on the variety of investment opportunities in the Northern Marianas, touting, among others, tax benefits and other incentives that the Commonwealth has to offer. Speaking in front of members of the Japan Management Consultants Association last July 25, the chief executive informed Japan's leading entrepreneurs of possible investment projects they can pursue, including the construction of cultural centers, retirement homes, beverage bottling businesses, fishing and pozzolan mining, to name a few.

# Island Snapshots

**YOUNG TOURIST**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A child tourist pushes his luggage upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport via Northwest Airlines.

**DC VISITOR**

Former senator David M. Cing, third from right, poses with staff of the Marianas House during a recent visit to Washington D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**TETE A TETE**

Gov. Benigno Fitial engages in a discussion with PTI president and CEO Ricky Delgado during the recent grand opening ceremony for PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**KSKK VISITORS**

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela welcomes the 21 students who will take part in the 29th annual Kokusai Seijouen Kensyuu Kyokai exchange program upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Friday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**BOOKMOBILE**

Posing in front of the JKPL Bookmobile are Library Staff Erlinda Naputi and Ray DLGuerrero. Shown also is the NMI Council for the Humanities, CNMI Motheread mini-float which is hoped to bring greater public awareness of the program and its services to promote reading as a family prime activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**ST. JUDE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Rev.Fr. Charlie Pastor of St Jude Thaddeus Church celebrates the 6am Mass on June 8. Congratulations to Fr. Charlie on his fifth ordination anniversary. Fr.

Charlie was appointed pastor and administrator of the St. Jude Parish in October 2007. He has been instrumental in assisting the Parish on its fundraisers to pay for the church's renovation loan.

The 9th Annual St. Jude Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, 7:30am shotgun time. Early Birth Entry Fee ends on June 14. Contact Fr. Charlie to get one at 288-0007.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Happy birthday greetings go out to Herman S. Taitano.

"May you have many more birthdays to come. Love you!" Si Donna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**MEETING THE FEDS**

Local government officials, business executives, and officials of business organizations on the island pose with the visiting federal officials during a meeting held to discuss local concerns about the proposed regulations governing the federal takeover of immigration and labor in the Commonwealth. The federal officials were on the island July 11-16, 2008. The meeting was held at the office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Prince and the toddler

**S**tephanie Lenz of Gallitzin, Pa., thought it might be fun last year to film her 13-month-old son Holden zipping around the kitchen while a Prince single from the 1980s played in the background. Then she did what she'd done with several home videos of her toddlers playing or cavorting to music: She posted the half-minute clip of Holden to YouTube so friends and family could see it. Four months later, Universal Music Publishing Group sent YouTube a letter demanding the removal of nearly 200 videos involving Prince songs, including Lenz's, on the grounds that the clips violated copyrights.

The removal of Lenz's dancing-baby video prompted a courtroom battle over how copyright holders defend their property online, and particularly on sites such as YouTube that rely on consumers to supply most of the content. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a technology advocacy group, accused Universal of making a misleading claim of infringement because Lenz used an excerpt from Prince's "Let's Go Crazy" legally. Specifically, the group's lawyers contend, the fuzzy minilmovie was a clear example of "fair use"—a limitation in federal copyright law that allows copyrighted material to be used in news reports, commentaries, educational materials, parodies and some noncommercial contexts.

Universal responded by claiming, among other things, that copyright holders never have to consider fair-use claims before demanding that their works be removed from Web sites. Regardless of its legal merits, such a policy could cripple fair use by making it vulnerable to mindless, automated enforcement by copyright owners. Consider what might happen to online news coverage, reviews and blog posts that include excerpts of copyrighted works. Sure, a publisher can appeal to have its material restored, but the process can take weeks (more than a month, in Lenz's case). By the time it goes back up, its value may have evaporated. Negative reviews and unflattering commentaries that included images or clips would be particularly at risk.

There should be some deterrent against copyright holders attacking fair uses online, deliberately or otherwise. At the very least, they should have to look at potentially infringing uses of their works and consider fair-use law before sending take-down notices. The courts may be the ultimate arbiter of individual fair-use claims, but copyright holders shouldn't be free to ignore the guidance provided by federal statutes and previous court rulings. Besides, taking down baby videos won't make Universal or Prince any richer in the long run. They'd be better off working with YouTube to capitalize on fans' enthusiasm than scrubbing the site clean of his hits.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Brookins RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH 7/08



## Renuzit

### Capitol Punishment

**S**o there I was, about to get my driver's license renewed in record time, when...you know what happened, don't you? Sure you do, the power went out. That, of course, brought the whole process to a grinding halt.

Careful research had indicated the correct day and hour to make that trip to BMV so the line would be at its shortest. With the preferred renewal application firmly in my sweaty grasp I was off walking to the Guma Hustisia building next door to pay my now-doubled fee and to get a traffic clearance from the Department of Justice computer. I walked. I paid. The recipient smiled.

I walked on over to Room No. 1 and lined up to get that computer generated, hand-stamped-with-the-big-official-seal document that proved I had not been caught doing anything wrong while driving. I made it to the front, handed over my receipt and my application with the old license now dutifully stapled to the top. The nice man smiled. He hand-entered the info into his computer console and just at the moment when the printer was about to spit out my form... bzzzt bzzzzzt, zap, click...darkness.

A few seconds later the back up generator came on and...flash, bzzzt, bzzt, lights on, blink off, flash again, lights on. Funny clackity noises emanate from around the room as fax machines and other electronic gee gaws reset themselves. It's pretty familiar to all of us now. It usually happens just when the shampoo is running into your eyes, or when the soufflé is just about to reach maximum altitude.

Now comes the fun part. Some 10 to 15 minutes pass while the now punch drunk DOJ computer tries to reboot and bring itself back to full electronic consciousness. In the embarrassing silence, I talk to the now not smiling man about the state of the long suffering populace and the much abused computing machines. I ask the obvious question, why should that computer have to reboot.... isn't it hooked to a battery backup and surge protector? Yep, sure is, but the backup is broken from so many blackouts and no longer functions. I ask the next obvious question the answer to which is that there is no money forthcoming to replace the battery backup boxes. Hmm. Let's see, a computer costs \$1,500 and a battery box that keeps the computer from melting down costs \$100. So the answer is...you guessed it.

Further queries around the Guma reveal that most of the building's many computers are not properly surge protected. The IT staff wants and asks for the proper machinery, the DOJ working staff wants and needs their computers to function properly so they can help provide judicial services to the people of the Commonwealth. No money arrives, no batteries are bought, the computers and other gear go unprotected until the day arrives when they go up in flames from neglect. Your tax dollars are not at work, they are on vacation.

After a decent mourning period, the machine comes back to life and grinds out the needed form. The friendly but frustrated man stamps it and hands it over. I don't need the form just yet as

## SOUR GRAPES

BRUCE A. BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. Yes, he is opinionated. [bbateman@pticom.com](mailto:bbateman@pticom.com)



the main BMV building has no generator and is in darkness until CUC removes the handcuffs and lets them get back to work. Once their power is back on, the friendly, smiling folks at BVM process my papers, snap my photo and produce the brand new license quickly and efficiently. All is well for three more years of driving, by which time the topic of conversation in the license renewal waiting line will be Article 12 land alienation and why we are still having power outages for the six people left who can afford \$20 per Kwh electricity.

Wahhhhhh!

Some observations: First, let me say that while I could certainly use the exercise that short walk provided, it seems a bit counter-productive (as in slide the dollars over the counter) to remove the cashier's window from a known revenue generator like the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It would also make a great deal of sense to have the BMV computer be able to talk to the DoJ computer located right next door since it contains the information they need to renew your license to motor-vate. A simple piece of coaxial cable and voila!

Second, it seems the old adage "penny wise, pound foolish" never got transmitted to the good folks who dole out the ill-gotten government cash to the subsidiary agencies. To withhold a hundred which is almost certain to cost the eventual expenditure of \$1,500 is not the action of a rational human.

So unsqueeze that purse string, Mr. Scrooge, and let go of a few pennies to buy those battery backups for each necessary government computer. One less round-trip, first-class airfare ought to pay the bill nicely.

### Performance gap

While we are talking about airfares, let's call up Philippine Airlines to come and take over that empty office at Saipan International Airport recently vacated by Continental. I'm betting they would be happy to fly some full airplanes back and forth between Manila and Saipan. They might even be persuaded to make hops to Honolulu or Seoul or Hong Kong or Narita or Shanghai or Hagatna or Houston from here, too. Maybe PAL could use the Francisco Ada Saipan Airport as its U.S. entry port and near Asia hub for flights to and from the U.S. These callous connies aren't the only kids on the block.

See RENUZIT on next page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Monsters and moral hypocrites

**H**e looks like a cross between Santa Claus and a New Age guru, and he calls himself an alternative healer. But Radovan Karadzic, who was arrested in Serbia on Monday, stands accused of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

To those who know his history, Karadzic, former president of the "Republika Srpska" and one of the chief architects of the brutal Bosnian war, is the man who brought the concentration camp back to Europe and ordered Europe's worst massacre since World War II (in 1995, Bosnian-Serb forces slaughtered more than 7,000 unarmed Bosnian Muslim men and boys near Srebrenica). With Karadzic's approval, torture and starvation became routine methods of prisoner control, organized mass rape became a spectator sport and snipers were authorized to fire on children during the siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic's arrest was long overdue. He was indicted by the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague 13 years ago, and since then, he had hidden in plain sight, protected by tolerant Serbian officials. At some point, Karadzic even stopped bothering with his once-heavy security detail: He simply replaced his trademark bouffant hairdo with a jolly white beard, took up acupuncture and holistic medicine and opened a practice as a New Age healer.

The irony has been lost on no one. Here's a man accused of the worst crimes devised by human ingenuity—and he calls himself a "healer"?

But this shouldn't surprise us. The perpetrators of atrocities have always favored metaphors of healing. Just as a physician might use purges to rid a patient's body of internal toxins, Stalin imagined that his purges would rid the Soviet body politic of dangerous internal corruption. Hitler saw the Jews as "a cancer on the breast of Ger-

many" and was convinced that the extermination of the Jews was essential to restoring the health of the Aryan nation.

Pol Pot wanted to "purify" Cambodian society, eliminating those infected with a Western taint as ruthlessly as a physician wipes out infections. In Rwanda, Hutu "genocidaires" derided the Tutsi as "cockroaches," spreaders of dirt and disease who needed to be destroyed for the well-being of society. For Karadzic as well, there was probably no sense of discontinuity between healing and destroying; one was essential to the other.

It's easy to dismiss all this with a cynical snort. Karadzic and other perpetrators of atrocities may use metaphors of healing, but they can't really believe that killing and healing can be reconciled, right?

I'm not so sure. All the evidence we have suggests that human beings are adept at self-deceit. Alone among animals, humans are tellers of stories—and we tell stories to ourselves as well as to others. We trick ourselves constantly, in countless tiny ways, into believing that the bad deeds of others are very bad indeed, while our own are necessary, minor, forgivable—or maybe not even bad at all.

In one recent study, for instance, Northeastern University psychologists Piercarlo Valdesolo and David DeSteno found that when subjects were asked to assign tasks to themselves and to strangers, nearly all gave themselves easy tasks while assigning unpleasant tasks to people they didn't know. When asked if their actions were fair, subjects were quick to find appealing rationales to justify saddling strangers with all the lousy jobs. But these same subjects were quick to condemn the same selfish behavior when they saw others engage in it.

At least on a microscopic level, then, most of us aren't all that different from Karadzic or any of the other killers who cloaked their

**By ROSA BROOKS**

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail Brooks at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

atrocities in the soothing rhetoric of healing. We're all moral hypocrites, willing to believe our own justifications for the rotten things we want to do.

There's a depressing lesson here. Uplifting rhetoric—even the language of healing, generosity and compassion—can genuinely mask the true nature of bad deeds (even from those who carry them out). As a nation at war, it's a lesson we should remember.

But there's some intriguing and potentially good news as well from the world of social psychology: Valdesolo and DeSteno also found that when experimental subjects were asked to assess the fairness of their own selfish behavior while simultaneously engaging in some other difficult mental task (memorizing a long string of numbers), they judged their behavior far more harshly. It seems, Valdesolo and DeSteno concluded, that if you tie up some cognitive capacity with a difficult task, there's just not enough brain power left over to successfully lie to yourself any more.

And maybe that's reason for optimism, in the end. If hypocrisy is created and sustained by mental effort, maybe it's something that we—and even the worst moral hypocrites—can eventually learn to unlearn.

and incompetence and stop our government from being broke.

This community is fortunate Governor Fitial was elected. Certainly, we are going through "bitter times" but not of his doing. Aside from the Democrat Party-elected Governor Froilan Tenorio, who generated the most revenue during his tenure, Covenant Party-elect Governor Fitial shall go down in history as the only one who sincerely desired to correct the government-cancer created by all previous GOP governors and the GOP-controlled local congress before him. And we're talking the 30 years of corruption since I've been here.

Can we bring in new people? Yes. Immediately to mind is appointee to the CPA board, former congressman Waki. This recommendation goes for John Oliver Gonzales who has thrown his hat in the ring for the Washington representative position. Let's bring back former congressman Salas, he deserves another shot. And why not the guy in the jaunty Aussie hat, Jack Angello and "Bear" Guerrero, both educators who lost their bid in the last representative race? But more specifically, where our future leaders will come from: our local schools. Ambrose Bennett should be the next commissioner of BOE. All of us already understand his position of "common sense" and what he can do for our children. As for the other two candidates, I like their pretty smiles, but that doesn't make it right.

Our community will reap the benefits from these new faces and the caliber of leadership they can bring to our community, instead of the never-ending retreats throughout all the agencies, the departments and the Legislature. As long as this rot at the core of our culture exists, this tradition of being paid to do nothing, our community cannot be saved. Then let the Feds take over everything.

**Lee Andersen**

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

## Kudos

I applaud the decision of the *Saipan Tribune* to endorse the proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. The monument will bring economic prosperity for our local people, will protect our limited resources, and will make the CNMI into a global leader on ocean conservation issues.

It will also benefit the education of our children as research dollars and education grants will surely follow the designation of the world's second largest protected area.

**Ignacio Cabrera**

Papago, Saipan

to accommodate the tourists. All could use a place to toss the day's trash. Form the signs into a trash bin!



**Quote of the week:** Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you, but not the one ahead.

—Bill McGlashen

## Letters to the Editor

### Musical chairs

You've played it yourself: heart pounding, circling chairs, itching to sit down before the other guys, music stops, all fall down? For the worse, it seems, for us because all of it was fixed: the chairs, the music, the guys and gals.

In reference to the government, someone wrote in a recent op-piece "everything is broken." How more true could he have been and it marks the state of our government. How? Same old tired tune, same old tired promises, same old tired faces all going in circles to nowhere. What do I mean by this? There's only two religions here: election time and voting-by-barbecue. This makes for a rotten-to-its-core culture of corruption, ennui and incompetence that's impossible to break, particularly in the lawmaking body. It must be broken in order for this community to survive. Even the newly elected lawmakers are beginning to look old like the other

prehistoric guys on the hill doing the same decrepit dance, following the same old tune. They can't get a real job, so why not get elected? And, unfortunately, their type of nose-picking "leadership," for lack of a more insidious word, corrupts our youths' thinking, preparing them to do as their elders do.

And then there's those appointed to positions of authority. If they're not in one agency, they're in another—and yet another—along with the continuing baggage of incompetent hires called family and friends working alongside them, chewing betel nut, shuffling papers and waiting for that fat paycheck at the end of the rainbow called the Retirement Fund. Those same old faces bouncing around different chairs. How can we break this cycle? Bring in new people with vibrant ideas—those not from here and outside this good ol' boy network—who dare to challenge the corruption

that, as shown above, conflicts with another provision found in the same local Constitution. First, do we want the U.S. District Court to intervene and once again, strike down another provision of the NMI's Constitution, as was the case with the submerged lands issue? And secondly, would it be fair to disqualify a candidate given that this U.S. Public Law was just enacted this year?

Finally, I want to add to Mr. Blalock's list of questions. While I understand that Senator Crisostimo must resign his elected post upon certification of his candidacy, another question worth posing is: Would the same law apply to Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio? Additionally, I want to know what happens to the more than a hundred Labor and Immigration personnel that will be adversely affected by the same U.S. law creating the non-voting delegate seat; particularly, those who only have a few years to retire. For the fortunate employees absorbed (based on qualifications) by the Federal Immigration Office, would their services under the Feds be counted toward the CNMI's retirement vested service program? A dual retirement system, so to speak. I agree with Harry that a lot of "hard questions" must be asked of the candidates vying for this historic office and the time to ask is now!

**Kimo Mafnas Rosario**

Koblerville, Saipan

Has anyone else noticed that in the Outer Cover Marina there are no trash cans? There are plenty of new signs telling you not to litter, but no trash barrels to put the litter in. Maybe the enforcement arm of the U.S. Parks Department got its check from Uncle Sugar before the maintenance department. There are plenty of tourists that use that docking facility and there are plenty of local boaters that use it

## RENUZIT

From Page 10



## Blue Lagoon?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

### TODAY



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**▲86° ▼77°**

### WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**▲86° ▼78°**

### THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼78°**

### FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼78°**

### SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼78°**

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼76

### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Hot	▲93	▼75
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲93	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲74	▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼63
Pusan	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼68
Salem	Showers	▲69	▼55
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼58
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼73
Tokyo	Showers	▲84	▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲93	▼74

### Tides

### Sunrise/Sunset

### Moonrise/Moonset

Saipan Harbor	
2:57AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
10:58AM Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet
6:38PM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
11:05PM Today	Low Tide: 1.4 Feet

Today	5:59AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:59AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00AM	6:47 PM

Today	2:10AM	3:49PM
Wednesday	3:15AM	4:52PM
Thursday	4:21AM	5:50PM
Friday	5:27AM	6:42PM
Saturday	6:29AM	7:28PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

#### ■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### ■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### ■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### ■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

#### ■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### ■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

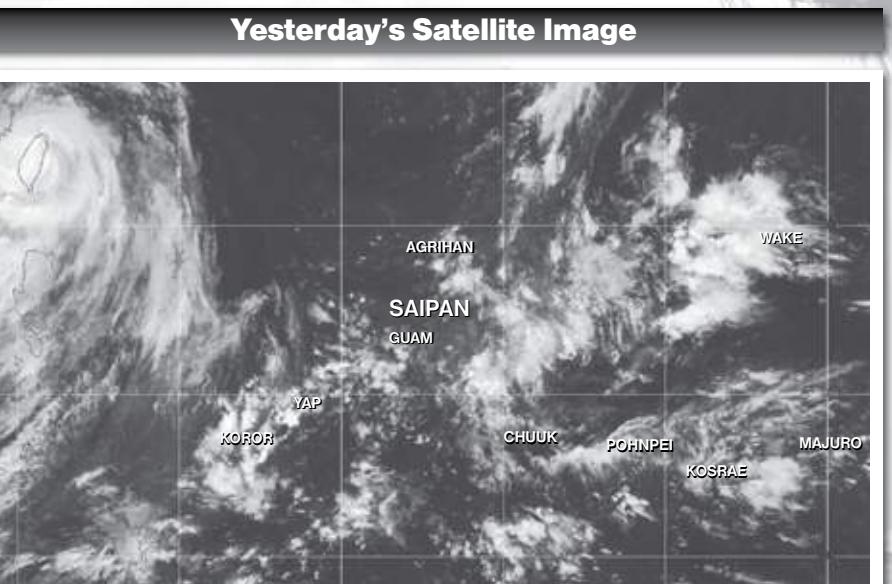
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

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**PICTURE TIME: 1:10PM, MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence and a surface trough running from 4N136E to 16N139E are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 4N134E to 7N134E to 9N135E to 12N143E. This area includes Palau and Yap and extends to just southwest of Guam. Another trough running from 1N139E to 2N139E and low-level convergence east of the trough are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Guam within 60 miles of a line from 1N139E to 5N142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the equator to 3N between 150E and 154E. This area is south of Chuuk. A surface trough running from 8N147E to 25N149E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line from 8N150E to 16N158E to 21N155E to 18N147E to 10N147E to back to 8N150E. This is north of Chuuk and west of Guam. Trade wind convergence is producing patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 2N to 9N between 153E and 174E including Pohnpei and Kosrae. An upper-level low northwest of Wake Island is centered near 22N158E. Showers and thunderstorms are scattered across a large area between 14N and 23N from 160E to 168E including Wake.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

### DEPARTURES

#### Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

#### Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

### ARRIVALS

#### Rota-Saipan

CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

#### Guam-Saipan

# Business



In this May 28, 2008 file photo, shoppers wait in line to check out at Costco in Mountain View, Calif.. Most inflation this year has come from food and fuel, as retailers resisted passing along to strapped consumers the higher prices manufacturers charged them.

AP

## Inflation's next front is retailers as costs rise

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Coming to a store near you: Even higher prices.

Most inflation this year has come from food and fuel, as retailers resisted passing along to strapped consumers the higher prices manufacturers charged them, but coming increases from companies such as Johnson & Johnson and Hasbro Inc. may leave them with no choice.

"While these increases have not for the most part been passed on at the retail level, it is inevitable that they will be at some point," said Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. "Car dealers and other retailers cannot continue to absorb rising costs at the wholesale level and not pass some of these increases on to consumers."

Sherwin Williams Co. on July 17 announced its third price increase in eight months. The company has been having "difficult discussions" with retailers, Chris Connor, chairman and CEO, said

on its quarterly conference call.

The price increases are "well supported with facts in terms of why the company needs them," he said. "Our customers, to the best of their ability, are passing them on."

Hasbro said the retailers it sells to didn't like price increases the company announced Monday "but they recognize that their own private-label costs are going up and they've accepted it."

The increases leave retailers in a bind: They can keep prices steady and cut profit margins or raise prices and risk losing sales.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has been in the lead of aggressively keeping prices down, pressuring its competitors to do the same.

"We have seen inflation and we have passed some of that through," said John Simley, a Wal-Mart spokesman. "We have, wherever possible, worked with our suppliers to reduce the inflationary

impact as much as possible."

Costco Wholesale Corp. said Wednesday its fourth-quarter earnings would be "well-below" Wall Street estimates of \$1 a share as it delays price increases. Stock in rival BJ's Wholesale Club Inc. fell more than 10 percent as investors feared the competitor would have to match Costco's prices.

Some economists say that once Americans spend their \$106.7 billion in tax rebate checks, consumer spending may shrivel, sparking a round of price cuts to entice shoppers. Others think price increases may be postponed, but they're on their way.

Much of this depends on how much money consumers have after buying gas and groceries—and what kind of mood they're in once they've filled their tanks. On Friday, The Reuters/University of Michigan index of consumer sentiment for July came in at 61.2, beating expectations and slightly better than the 28-year

low of 56.4 hit in June. Still, the confidence index was at 90.4 a year ago.

Even Costco said it won't swallow price increases from suppliers on key items, but would postpone passing them along to consumers, if only for a few weeks, because it wants to be the last retailer to raise prices.

The company raised its prices for rotisserie chicken from \$4.99 to \$5.49 about three months ago. Last week, the prices rose to \$5.99.

"I think the consumer is just starting to see, not only with us, rising commodity costs and rising general merchandise costs in a much bigger way than they've seen other than with gasoline itself," said Richard Galanti, Costco's chief financial officer, during a conference call Wednesday.

Inflation hit 5 percent for the year in June, the highest it's been since 1991, but the price increases hitting manufacturers have been far worse.

## FDA faulted over unapproved uses of medications

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—When a state trooper pulls over a speeding motorist, the officer usually writes out a ticket on the spot.

When federal regulators catch a drug company peddling prescription medications for an unapproved use, it takes them an average of seven months to issue a warning, according to a draft report by congressional investigators. It typically takes four more months for the company to fix the problem. During that time, a lot prescriptions can be written.

The report from the Government Accountability Office delves into a gray area of medical practice and federal oversight: the use of medications to treat conditions other than the ones the drugs were approved for, a practice known as "off-label" prescribing.

Although widely accepted, off-label prescribing can amount to an uncontrolled experiment. While some patients benefit, others get drugs that do not do them much good and end up wasting their money. Some people have been harmed by unexpected side effects.

What makes the practice so difficult to get a handle on is a web of seemingly contradictory laws and regulations.

Drug companies are forbidden to promote medications for uses that have not been validated by the Food and Drug Administration on evidence from clinical trials. Doctors, however, can use their own independent judgment in prescribing medicines. Also, under guidance proposed by the FDA this year, drug companies could distribute to doctors scientific articles that suggest new and unapproved uses for medications.

The situation has raised concerns for Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who fears that federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid are paying billions for medications used for questionable purposes while bulking up the bottom line for pharmaceutical companies.

## Report: Motorola to reorganize home and networks unit

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Motorola Inc. will restructure its home and networks mobility unit into three separate businesses, which could ease the way for their potential sale, according to media reports.

Motorola said in March that it plans to separate the handset business, which has been hurt by a two-year-long decline in cell phone sales, from the home and networks business. Now, the world's third-largest cell phone maker told employees in a memo last week it will split its second-largest division into three segments, according to a story published on The Wall Street Journal's Web site Sunday.

The home and networks business sells TV set-top boxes, digital video recording equipment and modems, as well as network gear such as data and voice equipment for telecom service providers. The division posted a 2 percent increase in fiscal first-quarter sales to \$2.4 billion.

## Survey: National gas prices dip below \$4 gallon

**CAMARILLO, Calif.** (AP)—A national survey shows gas prices have dropped a fraction below the \$4-dollar mark.

The average price of regular gasoline at self-serve stations was \$3.996 a gallon Friday. Mid-grade was \$4.13 a gallon and premium went for \$4.24.

That's according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations nationwide, released Sunday.

Prices are at their lowest level since May 16 and are an average of 11.7 cents less per gallon than two weeks ago.

Still, the survey showed the aver-

age U.S. price for gas is \$1.11 higher than it was a year ago.

Diesel was at \$4.80.

The cheapest gas was in Wichita, Kan., where the price for regular was \$3.61 a gallon.

Anchorage ranked the nation's highest: \$4.43 a gallon for regular.

## Readings on economy, jobs could dominate trading

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Investors head into the week with a bit more resolve that U.S. companies are doing a better-than-expected job managing their way through an economy stifled by unprecedented turmoil in the housing and credit markets.

Wall Street is about midway through second-quarter earnings season, and the overall results haven't been as dreary as some analysts feared. About 61 percent of the Standard & Poor's 500 index companies reporting results so far have surpassed projections, and 72 percent of them were able to top last year's sales figures.

Expectations were low for the quarter

and that helped some companies beat forecasts. But if you strip out the market's problem child—the financial sector—S&P said companies are headed for a 10 percent growth rate from last year.

"Regardless of the estimates or hype, a double-digit gain from non-financials is impressive—in any economy," said Howard Silverblatt, S&P's senior index analyst.

The fact that earnings have withstood the second-quarter turmoil might help put a more positive spin on the coming week. Investors are awaiting reports from several members of the Dow Jones industrial average and

dozens of S&P 500 companies.

And, there also won't be a shortage of data that might offer some clarity about where the economy is heading. Readings are due on employment, gross domestic product and the manufacturing sector.

As the volatility of recent months has shown, investors are clamoring for more data and earnings to help justify a return to stocks. Last week's seesaw trading pattern indicated more clarity is needed - stocks began the week with a rally on hope about banks, then fell sharply Thursday on fears about banks, and clawed its way back on Friday to end moderately higher.

# Nation

## Gunman opens fire in Tennessee church, 2 killed



Knoxville Police Department officers lead Jim D. Adkisson, a 58-year-old Knoxville man charged with one count of first degree murder, to a squad car in Knoxville, Tenn. on Sunday, July 27, 2008.

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** (AP) — A gunman opened fire at a church youth performance Sunday and killed two people, including a man who witnesses called a hero for shielding others from a shotgun blast.

Seven adults were also injured but no children were harmed at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Church members said they dove under pews or ran from the building when the shooting started.

The gunman was tackled by congregants and eventually taken into police custody.

Jim D. Adkisson, 58, was charged with first-degree murder and was being held on \$1 million bail, according to city spokesman Randy Kenner, who did not know if the suspect had retained an attorney. Authorities were searching Adkisson's home in the Knoxville bedroom community of Powell, Kenner said.

The man slain was identified as Greg McKendry, 60, a longtime church member and usher. Church member Barbara Kemper told The Associated Press that McKendry "stood in the front of the gunman and took the blast to protect the rest of us."

Linda Kreager, 61, died at the University of Tennessee Medical Center a few hours after the shooting, Knoxville city spokesman Randall Kenner said.

Five people remained hospitalized, all in critical or serious condition. Two others were treated and released.

The gunman's motive is not yet known. The church, like many other Unitarian Universalist churches, promotes progressive social work, such as desegregation and fighting for the rights of women and gays. The Knoxville congregation has provided sanctuary for political

refugees, fed the homeless and founded a chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, according to its Web site.

Kemper said the gunman shouted before he opened fire.

"It was hateful words. He was saying hateful things," she said, but refused to elaborate.

The FBI was assisting in the case in case it turns out to be a hate crime, Police Chief Sterling Owen said. Police were taking statements from witnesses and collecting video cameras from church members who taped the performance.

There were about 200 people watching a performance by 25 children based on the musical "Annie" when the shooting took place.

Church member Mark Harmon said he was in the first row. "It had barely begun when there was an incredibly loud bang," he said.

## Fire destroys eight homes near Yosemite park



AP  
Orange County Firefighter Tim O'hare can only watch fires burning across the Briceburg mountains along side the Merced River Sunday, July 27, 2008 in Briceburg, Calif. Many firefighters were in the area to make sure fires didn't spread across roads.

1,000 feet of a California condor enclosure in the zoo, forcing the relocation of the condors and two vultures, zoo spokesman Jason Jacobs said.

The fire had burned about 25 acres and was contained in under three hours, Los Angeles fire officials said. No injuries were reported.

were reported.

Meanwhile, near Yosemite National Park, the wildfire led officials to order the evacuations of 195 homes under immediate threat. About 2,000 homes faced at least some danger from the fast-spreading flames, fire officials said.

State fire spokeswoman Karen Guillemin said the blaze was sparked by someone target shooting but would not elaborate.

Most of the evacuated homes are in the town of Midpines, about 12 miles from the park. The southern edge of the blaze was as little as two miles from Mariposa, a town of about 1,800 residents, Berlant said.

Mary Ann Porter, a nursing assistant who lives in Midpines, left her goats, chickens and dog when she evacuated Sunday morning. Porter, who lives with her daughter and grandchildren, said the family took pictures and some computer hard drives.

"One of the blessings of living up here is that you adapt and learn to accept things," she said, sitting a table reading a newspaper in the evacuation center in Mariposa.

Some homeowners defied evacuation orders to stay and defend their properties.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 300 evacuated from flooding in Ruidoso, N.M., area

RUIDOSO, N.M. (AP) — About 300 people were evacuated from homes, campgrounds and a recreational vehicle park Sunday after flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Dolly. Two people were reported missing in the water. Meteorologists said more than 6 inches of rain fell in the mountainous area, and flash flood watches were in effect for central and eastern New Mexico. The Rio Ruidoso went over its banks about midnight, said Tom Schafer, Ruidoso's emergency management coordinator. Ruidoso police took

reports of the two being swept away in separate incidents after apparently losing their footing near the river.

#### Protesters rally against immigration raid in Iowa

POSTVILLE, Iowa (AP) — About a thousand protesters descended on a small town in northeastern Iowa on Sunday, decrying the raid of a meatpacking plant that arrested nearly 400 residents and calling for a change in federal immigration policies. Postville, a town with about 2,200 residents, was pushed to the forefront of a national debate when federal immigration officials

raided Agriprocessors - the nation's biggest kosher meatpacking plant - in May in the largest raid of its kind in the United States. Most of those arrested were Guatemalan and Mexican nationals who lived in the area. Rabbi Harold Kravitz of the Adath Jeshurun Congregation in Minnetonka, Minn., said the protesters wanted to stop the criminalization of people who come to the U.S. simply to make a living.

#### Oops! Wrong Larry shown on Idaho campaign buttons

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) — Some Democratic campaign buttons made for distribution

in Idaho show an unlikely pair: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and Republican Sen. Larry Craig. But don't expect the staunch Republican to throw his support behind Obama or for the presidential candidate to ask Craig to change his mind and run for Senate again. Apparently the button manufacturer picked a picture of the wrong Idaho Larry. The 3-inch button by Tigereye Design was intended to show Obama beside Larry LaRocco, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, the Lewiston Tribune reported. Craig is not seeking re-election following his arrest in a Minnesota airport restroom sex sting.

## 3 missing, 4 dead in NY riptides

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Rescuers suspended their search Sunday for a 10-year-old girl in the water off Coney Island, one of three swimmers still missing from powerful ocean currents at New York City and Long Island beaches over the weekend.

Four other victims drowned at local beaches Friday and Saturday, authorities said.

The search for the girl was suspended Sunday afternoon pending further developments, Coast Guard Cmdr. Gregory Hitchen said.

Akira Johnson was pulled under by currents while swimming with her cousin Saturday

afternoon. Her cousin, Tyriek Currie, also 10, was rescued.

The children's grandfather, Charles German, went to the beach Sunday to watch the search effort. He said the family was doing as well as could be expected.

With a steady punch of stronger rip currents possible over the weekend, "only experienced surf swimmers should enter the waters," said National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Connolly.

A strong storm system spawned rough seas and 8-foot waves to the area earlier this week, Connolly said.

## Miami at bottom in volunteering

**MIAMI** (AP) — Blame it on the traffic. Or the number of new immigrants. Or the allure of the beach. Whatever the reason, Miami has secured the bottom spot—No. 50 among major U.S. cities—in new rankings of the percentage of adults who volunteer.

Nationally, the volunteer rate fell in 2007 for the second year in a row, to 26.2 percent, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), said another factor was at play, what he calls "the leaky bucket" of volunteerism.

Nationally, about one in three people who volunteer in a given year do not do so the following year. In Miami, the rate is six in 10.

"There's interest in volunteering in a lot of people but they're just not staying with it," Grimm said.

Rapid turnover is a problem across the country, and one of the reasons the national rate dropped again in 2007 after reaching 28.8 percent in 2005. In all, 60.8 million Americans 16 and older performed roughly 8.1 billion hours of volunteer service in 2007.

The study notes that Miami's poverty rate and average commute times are slightly higher than the national average, while other factors influencing volunteerism—home ownership and education level—are slightly lower.

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# Asia

# Qantas probe focuses on oxygen tank

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Qantas airlines rushed to inspect oxygen cylinders on its entire fleet Monday as investigators focused on a missing tank as the suspected cause of a mid-air blast that tore a hole in a jumbo jet carrying more than 350 people, forcing an emergency landing in the Philippines.

Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority said the Sydney-based airline was ordered to quickly inspect every oxygen bottle aboard its 30 Boeing 747s.

Civil authority spokesman Peter Gibson confirmed an oxygen cylinder was missing from the Boeing 747-400 that landed in Manila on Friday after a section of its metal skin was ripped away at 29,000 feet over the South China Sea. There were no injuries.

"If it turns out that is the cause of the accident, the cause of the hole in the side of the aircraft, obviously that will be a key part of the investigation working out why a bottle would suddenly give way," Gibson told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio on Monday.

"As far as we can determine this has never happened before on a passenger aircraft," he said, adding the possibility was "very unusual and obviously under-

standing why that happened will be absolutely critical to making sure it can't occur again."

He said a possible cause of the blast could include metal fatigue in the cylinder, a failure of the regulator valve, something hitting it and puncturing it, or the cylinder becoming too hot.

A senior investigator from the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau, Neville Blyth, told reporters Sunday the incident was treated as a safety investigation.

"At this stage, there is no evidence whatsoever that this is a security-related event," he said. An official of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration also said initial reports indicated no link to terrorism.

Gibson said an inspection of all oxygen canisters in Qantas' fleet will take several days. He said tanks located near the hole contained emergency oxygen for the flight deck.

Boeing spokeswoman Liz Verdier said the design of the Qantas jet includes dozens of oxygen tanks located throughout the lower part of the aircraft, including below the passenger compartment where the hole formed.

Verdier said it was too soon to say what caused the explosion or whether the canisters may have contributed to the blast.



**POWERFUL TYPHOON**

A Taiwanese man fishes with the winds of approaching Typhoon Fung Wong in Keelung, Sunday, July 27, 2008, in Keelung, Taiwan. The powerful typhoon struck Taiwan early Monday, closing schools and businesses and grounding domestic and international air traffic. Typhoon Fung Wong made landfall on the east central coast just before daybreak, packing winds of 105 miles per hour. It is expected to drop up to 36 inches of rain on the central portion of the island and perhaps half of that much on its southern and northern extremities, including the capital of Taipei. Fung Wong hit Taiwan just a week after tropical storm Kalmaegi killed 19 people and left six others missing on the island.

## Islamic group claims India blasts that killed 45

**AHMADABAD, India** (AP)—An obscure Islamic militant group warning of "the terror of Death" claimed responsibility for bombings that killed at least 45 people and authorities stepped up security Sunday after India's second series of blasts in two days.

The city's police commissioner, O.P. Mathur, said that 30 people had been detained for questioning, but there was scant information about the Indian Mujahideen, the little known group that took credit for the bombings in western India.

"In the name of Allah the Indian Mujahideen strike again!"

Do whatever you can, within 5 minutes from now, feel the terror of Death!" said an e-mail from the group sent to several Indian television stations minutes before the blasts began.

The e-mail's subject line said "Await 5 minutes for the revenge of Gujarat," an apparent reference to 2002 riots in the western state which left 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, dead. The historic city of Ahmadabad was the scene of much of the 2002 violence.

Saturday's e-mail, sent from a Yahoo account and written in English, was made available to AP by CNN-IBN,

one of the TV stations that received the warning.

State government spokesman Jaynarayan Vyas said 45 people were killed and 161 wounded when at least 16 bombs went off Saturday evening in several crowded neighborhoods.

The attack came a day after seven smaller blasts killed two people in the southern technology hub of Bangalore.

Investigators in Surat, a city about 160 miles south of Ahmadabad, found a car carrying detonators and a liquid that police suspect may be ammonium nitrate, a chemical often used in explosive devices, city police Chief R.M.S.

Brar told reporters.

The e-mail was sent by a group calling itself Indian Mujahideen that was unknown before May, when it said it was behind a series of bombings in Jaipur, also in western India, that killed 61 people.

In its e-mail, the group did not mention the bombings in Bangalore and it was not clear if the attacks were connected. But both Ahmadabad and Bangalore are in states ruled by the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, as is Jaipur, raising suspicions that whoever was behind the attacks may have wanted to make a political statement.

## Sri Lanka security bolstered for summit

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka**

(AP)—Sri Lanka sealed off roads and deployed 19,000 soldiers and police in the capital Sunday to prepare for a summit of South Asian leaders amid a raging civil war.

Violence in the Indian Ocean nation's quarter-century civil war has escalated in recent months, with near-daily airstrikes against ethnic Tamil rebels, gunbattles in the volatile north and a series of bomb and suicide attacks in Colombo and its suburbs.

The Tamil Tiger rebels offered a unilateral cease-fire that began Saturday as a goodwill gesture during the summit

of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, known as SAARC.

But the rebels said they would defend themselves if the government continues its offensive against their de facto state in the north. Government officials said the rebels were simply trying to buy time to regroup after a series of battlefield losses, and some ministers have said the army has no plans to back off.

Despite the cease-fire, there were scattered battles Saturday along the northern front lines, where army troops killed 12 rebels, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Pakistan: 3 troops, 15 militants killed

**QUETTA, Pakistan** (AP)—Suspected tribal insurgents ambushed a security forces patrol in southwest Pakistan, and three troops and 15 militants were killed in the fighting, an official said Sunday. Maj. Gen. Salim Nawaz said three troops were killed in the attack in the Toba Mandrani area near the gas producing town of Sui. Security forces retaliated, killing 15 insurgents, some near the scene of the ambush and others in subsequent clashes and search operations in nearby areas, he said. Five other troops

were wounded in the clash late Saturday, Salim said.

#### Longtime Cambodian leader claims new election win

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia** (AP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party claimed it had sealed a landslide victory in parliamentary elections Sunday that were expected to usher in a new term for the former Khmer Rouge soldier who has ruled for 23 years. Hun Sen's popularity at the polls was buoyed by a surge of nationalism amid a tense border dispute with

neighboring Thailand. The 57-year-old Hun Sen's reputation as a strongman served him well in the campaign, with voters rallying around the leader as Cambodian troops faced off with Thai soldiers for a second week at a disputed 11th century Hindu temple.

#### FAA had warned of oxygen tank danger

**SYDNEY, Australia** (AP)—The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration warned airlines to inspect oxygen cylinders on their planes months before the dramatic mid-air emergency last week aboard a Qantas

flight that investigators suspect was caused by an exploding tank. The air-worthiness directive, issued in April and effective in May, followed a report that certain oxygen cylinder supports in Boeing 747-400s may not have been properly heat-treated, which the FAA said could cause oxygen leakage and subsequent fire hazards. Australian authorities say investigators are focusing on an oxygen bottle missing from the cargo hold of the Qantas 747-400 that was ripped open at 29,000 feet (8,800 meters) over the South China Sea on Friday.

#### 4 panda cubs born at Chinese breeding center

**BEIJING** (AP)—Four giant panda cubs were born within 14 hours at a breeding center in southwest China, a mini baby boom for the rare animals, a state news agency reported Sunday.

The births began Saturday at the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Center when 9-year-old Qiyuan, or Magic Luck, gave birth to female twins at 5:24 p.m. and 6:16 p.m., Xinhua News Agency reported, citing center expert Yang Feifei.

Eight-year-old Chenggong, or Success, gave birth to a cub at 7:51 p.m., followed by 8-year-old Zhuzhu, or Pearl, who delivered at 6:55 a.m. Sunday, Yang said.

The center currently has 71 pandas in captivity, Xinhua said.

The giant panda is revered as an unofficial national symbol of China. Only about 1,600 pandas live in the wild, mostly in southwestern Sichuan province, which was hit by an earthquake in May that killed nearly 70,000 people.

China's most famous panda preserve, the Wolong Nature Reserve, was seriously damaged in the quake and forced to relocate most of its pandas. The preserve is at the heart of China's gargantuan effort to use captive breeding and artificial insemination to save the giant panda.

# World

# Bombs strike Istanbul square, killing 16

**ISTANBUL, Turkey** (AP)—Two bombs exploded minutes apart in a packed Istanbul square Sunday night, killing 16 and injuring more than 150 in the deadliest attack against civilians in Turkey in almost five years.

The city's governor called it a "terror attack" but officials did not blame any specific group and no one immediately claimed responsibility. CNN-Turk television, citing security sources, said police suspect Kurdish rebels may be behind it because intelligence reports had suggested the rebels were planning a bombing campaign in Turkish cities.

"There is no doubt that this is a terror attack," Gov. Muammer Guler told reporters.

The first bomb went off in the residential neighborhood of Gungoren in a busy square closed to traffic where people congregate at night, witnesses said. A number of people had rushed over to see what happened and help the victims



An injured woman is helped after an explosion in Istanbul, Turkey, late Sunday, July 27, 2008. AP

## Brother: Karadzic appeal has been filed

**BELGRADE, Serbia** (AP)—Radovan Karadzic's defense team has filed an appeal to stop Serbia from extraditing the ex-Bosnian Serb leader to the U.N. war crimes tribunal, Karadzic's brother said Sunday.

It was the first confirmation of the filing. Once Serb judges decide on the appeal - which they are likely to reject - the case will be handed over to the Serbian government, which issues the final extradition order.

Luka Karadzic visited his brother in a detention cell Sunday in the company of Karadzic's lawyer. Asked later by reporters whether they had filed an appeal, Luka Karadzic said: "Of course we have."

"Radovan is well, totally calm and relaxed," Luka Karadzic said after the visit.

Karadzic faces 11 charges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal, including genocide and conspiracy to commit genocide. He is accused of allegedly masterminding the 1995 slaughter of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica and the 3 1/2 year siege of Sarajevo, which left 10,000 people dead.

Officials say the war crimes suspect was captured Monday in Belgrade, where he lived under an assumed identity. His lawyer claims that Karadzic was kidnapped July 18 and held for three days by unknown captors.

The Blic daily reported Sunday that an anonymous caller had tipped off Serbia's security service on Karadzic's whereabouts by saying he recognized his voice, and gave a detailed description of Karadzic's undercover disguise and work in alternative medicine.

## Gunmen in Iraq kill 7 Shiites en route to shrine

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Seven Shiite pilgrims traveling to a shrine in Baghdad were shot to death in an ambush in a Sunni town south of the capital Sunday as authorities tightened security ahead of a major religious festival that is expected to draw tens of thousands of worshippers.

The U.S. military, meanwhile, said two new operations will begin early next month in a bid to rout insurgents from rural hideouts in northern Iraq and solidify recent security gains in urban areas.

Shiite pilgrims have fre-

quently been targeted by car bombs and gunmen during years of sectarian warfare. In 2005, at least 1,000 people also were killed in a bridge stampede caused by rumors of a suicide bomber in Baghdad during the Kazimiyah pilgrimage.

But recent pilgrimages have been relatively peaceful as a U.S. troop buildup, a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida in Iraq and a Shiite militia cease-fire helped drive violence down to its lowest level in more than four years.

The gunmen were hiding on the side of the road when they

opened fire, killing the seven young men near Madain, about 14 miles southeast of Baghdad, said a police officer familiar with the incident.

An official at the Baghdad hospital where the bodies were taken confirmed the victims were killed by gunfire, but both spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

The slain men, aged 20 to 25, were on foot and had begun their trek in the Shiite town of Suwayrah to the south, the policeman said.

## Bombs kill 11 in Baghdad during pilgrimage

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Coordinated bombing attacks killed at least 11 people and wounded 33 others who were taking part in a massive Shiite pilgrimage in Baghdad on Monday, police said.

The blasts occurred in central Baghdad as Shiite worshippers streamed toward a shrine in an

annual pilgrimage marking the death of an eighth-century saint. A roadside bomb and three suicide bombers struck in quick succession, police said.

Police said they believed the suicide bombers were women.

Heavy security measures had been taken to prevent such attacks, including hundreds of

women officials assigned to conduct body searches of female pilgrims.

The police officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

On Sunday, at least seven pilgrims were killed south of Baghdad in an ambush by gunmen.

## Owner of sunken Egyptian ferry acquitted

**CAIRO, Egypt** (AP)—The owner of a ferry that sank two years ago in the Red Sea was acquitted Sunday of manslaughter charges in the deaths of more than 1,000 people who perished in the botched rescue.

Sunday's ruling cleared a total of five people in the case, outraging families of those killed in the accident. One person - the captain of another ferry who failed to respond to the foundering vessel's distress call - was convicted and sentenced to six months in jail.

The ferry owner, a former

member of parliament, and his son were cleared of manslaughter and faulty injury charges by a court in the Red Sea port city of Hurghada, the country's official news agency, MENA, reported. The men, who fled the country shortly before being ordered to stand trial, were tried in absentia. They are believed to be hiding in Europe.

The Al-Salam Boccaccio 98 sank in February 2006 after fire broke out in its vehicle bay while traveling from Saudi Arabia to Egypt. Most of the more

than 1,000 victims were Egyptian workers returning home.

A parliamentary investigation found "a wicked collaboration" between the company and the Egyptian Commission of Maritime Safety, which allowed the ferry to operate while failing to meet minimum safety requirements. Both the company and the government were also criticized for failing to respond quickly to the sinking, which struck a deep chord in Egypt where official negligence is often blamed for large accidents.

when a second, more powerful blast hit close by about 10 minutes after the first. Many of the casualties were from the second explosion, witnesses said.

"The fact that there was a crowd in the area has increased the number of casualties," the governor said.

Government officials said 16 people were killed and 154 injured.

An Associated Press reporter who arrived to the scene shortly after the explosions saw at least 12 people lying on the ground. Broken glass, clothing, shop mannequins and other debris were strewn on the ground and bomb squads in white overalls were inspecting the scene.

Many of the injured waited for medical treatment, their faces and bodies covered with blood. Several people who appeared seriously wounded were wrapped in blankets and carried to ambulances waiting near the site of the blasts.

"The first explosion was in

a telephone booth," said Huseyin Senturk, who owns a shoe shop yards away from where the blasts occurred. "The second explosion was some 40 meters (yards) away."

"The first explosion was not very strong," Senturk added. "Several people came to see what was going on. That's when the second explosion occurred and it injured many onlookers."

The second explosion could be heard a mile away, witnesses said. The governor said the bombs were planted in trash cans.

The attack was the country's worst since November 20, 2003 when al-Qaida linked suicide bombings struck the British consulate and a British bank, killing at least 30 people. Five days earlier, suicide truck bombs attacked two Istanbul synagogues, killing 27.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Abdullah Gul strongly condemned Sunday's bombings.



In this undated photograph released by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, the Khan Bani Saad Correctional Facility, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) northeast of Baghdad, is seen with unused building materials nearby. AP

## Report: Empty prison in Iraq considered a \$40M 'failure'

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—In the flatlands north of Baghdad sits a prison with no prisoners. It holds something else: a chronicle of U.S. government waste, misguided planning and construction shortcuts costing \$40 million and stretching back to the American overseers who replaced Saddam Hussein.

"It's a bit of a monument in the desert right now because it's not going to be used as a prison," said Stuart Bowen, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, whose office plans to release a report Monday detailing the litany of problems at the vacant detention center in Khan Bani Saad.

The pages also add another narrative to the wider probes into the billions lost so far on scrubbed or substandard projects in Iraq and one of the main contractors accused of failing to deliver, the Parsons construction group of Pasadena, Calif.

"This is \$40 million invested in a project with very little return," Bowen told The Associated Press in Washington. "A couple of buildings are useful. Other than that, it's a failure."

In the pecking order of corruption in Iraq, the dead-end prison project at Khan Bani Saad is nowhere near the biggest or most tangled.

Bowen estimated up to 20 percent "waste"—or more than \$4 billion—from the \$21 billion spent so far in the U.S.-bankrolled Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund. It's just one piece of a recovery effort that swelled beyond \$112 billion in U.S., Iraqi and international contributions.

But the empty prison compound—in the shadows of more than two dozen watchtowers now dotted by birds' nests—is an open sore for both American watchdogs and local Iraqi politicians who had counted on the prison as an economic boost.

# Overdrive

## 2009 CHEVROLET MALIBU LTZ

# GM learns its lesson, perfects a winner

By WARREN BROWN  
 (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**CORNWALL, N.Y.**—We carried a heavy load—linen and appliances for the new house, our eldest daughter's place in this idyllic setting 52 miles north of New York City, five miles north of the occasionally booming guns of the military academy at West Point.

We didn't plan well. That's the editorial "we," herein used to cover my tail. A truck was available for the 300-mile drive from our Virginia home. But it was a truck with a big V-8 engine, a gas guzzler of the first order.

I vetoed the truck, choosing fuel economy over utility, not the smartest thing to do when carrying capacity was needed. But stupidity sometimes has benefits, in this case the discovery that General Motors has moved quickly to improve its hot-selling Chevrolet Malibu sedan—now offered as a 2009 model with a four-cylinder engine mated to a six-speed automatic transmission, and dressed in premium Malibu LTZ trim.

If proof were needed that GM is serious about challenging Toyota's dominance of family sedan sales in the United States, the 2009 Malibu LTZ used on this journey suffices. It's a first-class, affordable, four-cylinder, front-wheel-drive, mid-size family sedan now equipped with a transmission worthy of the name.



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Chevrolet Malibu LTZ, one of the best-looking cars in its class, is an affordable, four-cylinder, front-wheel-drive, mid-size family sedan now equipped with a transmission worthy of the name.

This is a breakthrough. This is GM behaving in a most un-GM-like manner.

This is the new GM.

The old GM happily would have rested on its laurels from the 2008 Malibu, a car light-years ahead of earlier GM products in terms of design consistency, engineering and overall quality. The 2008 Malibu won the North American Car of the Year award, no small thing for GM and a Chevrolet division long accustomed to being trounced by foreign rivals in such contests.

The old GM would still be polishing its trophy, pleasantly unconcerned that the 2008 Malibu also suffered an aggravating deficit: Its four-cylinder version came with a mileage-limiting, four-speed automatic transmission in a

world where five-speed, six-speed, and seven-speed automatics were becoming common.

Transmissions are critical. They determine the efficiency with which power is transferred from the engine to the drive wheels. The more efficient the power transfer, the less fuel is used.

Transmissions with more gears for handling the power transfer generally are considered more efficient than those with fewer. There's also the matter of continuously variable transmissions, those that eschew traditional gearing altogether, but that's another story.

In the matter of traditionally geared transmissions, five speeds are better than four, six are better than five. But GM thinking, long controlled by

people who cared more about the bottom line than consumer satisfaction, placed more value on the cheaper four-speed transmissions, assuming most consumers wouldn't care as long as they got a deal.

But Toyota, Honda and other rivals changed that, offering family cars with more sophisticated transmissions and other qualities—pretty interiors, for example—at higher prices that consumers still paid. That proved that consumer satisfaction is the best determinant of a company's bottom line.

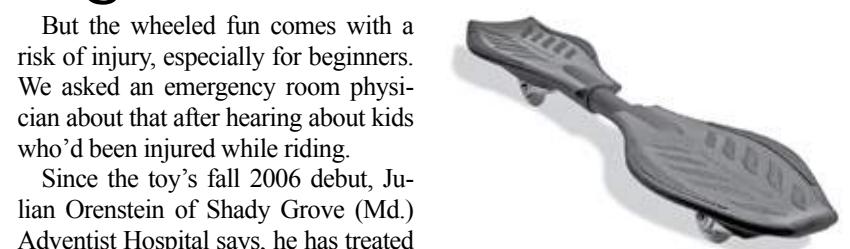
The 2009 Malibu LTZ with the 2.4-liter, 169-horsepower, in-line, four-cylinder engine mated to a modern six-speed automatic transmission proves GM has learned that important lesson.

## Kids are falling for this souped-up skateboard

By BRITTNEY JOHNSON  
 (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Kids surfing the sidewalks this summer on the Ripstik Caster Board, a two-wheeled variation on the standard four-wheeled skateboard, don't have to put a foot down, but they may want to keep their guard up.

The Ripstik, named 2008's outdoor toy of the year by the Toy Industry Association, lets riders accelerate and even ride uphill without pushing off the ground by shifting their body weight atop its two rotating platforms and wheels that turn 360 degrees.



The Ripstik Caster Board is a two-wheeled variation on the standard four-wheeled skateboard.

But the wheeled fun comes with a risk of injury, especially for beginners. We asked an emergency room physician about that after hearing about kids who'd been injured while riding.

Since the toy's fall 2006 debut, Julian Orenstein of Shady Grove (Md.) Adventist Hospital says, he has treated Ripstik-related scrapes, fractures and head injuries, but the damage has been no more and no worse than what he sees from traditional skateboards.

Orenstein, who bought a Ripstik for his 11-year-old daughter, says that the toy improves balance and fine motor control, and that most injuries should keep kids

out of action for only a few days.

His advice to parents and caregivers?

Make sure riders wear a helmet and

ride on smooth surfaces, just as with

bicycles, skateboards and rollerblades. "Kids will fall," Orenstein says, so they need to be protected.

A "How to Ride" video posted by Ripstik's manufacturer, Razor USA, on its Web site urges riders to wear protective gear such as elbow and knee pads, adhere to age and weight restrictions (the board is not recommended for kids under age 8 or over 220 pounds) and avoid riding on wet pavement.

Orenstein advises parents to be cautious but not overprotective: "Don't let the risk of potential injury stop them from doing something that's good for them, great exercise and lots of fun."

stern, as well as twin rudders.

I remember that AutoWeek magazine actually tested one back in 2006 or so, and noted there was a compartment above the engine and transmission designed to hold TNT and a detonator for self-destruct purposes.

Hope all this helps, and you are correct that the auto manufacturers really helped the war effort in building everything from airplane engines (Studebaker, too), rocket engines, tanks, personnel carriers and lots more.

*Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.*

## CRUISIN' Studebaker's WWII Weasel

By GREG ZYLA  
 (C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q:** Greg, I really enjoy your nostalgia car columns, especially the ones on the World War II auto manufacturers when they didn't build cars for several years and concentrated on wartime machine production. You mentioned GM and Chrysler and the many things they built, but if my memory is correct, I believe Studebaker was also



PHOTO BY JAKE

M-29 Weasel at a Studebaker convention at Omaha, Neb.

heavily involved and built some type of tracked vehicle. Can you help me remember what it was?—Joseph, age 81, retired in Martinsville, Va.

**A:** Joseph, your memory serves you well, as Studebaker did build a very popular wartime tracked vehicle called the Weasel. The first Weasels had 15-inch tracks, the later versions had larger 20-inches. Two versions were available, an M29 and M29C.

The M29 troop mover was designed to get through snow and ice where other vehicles would become stuck. The M29C "Water Weasel" was an amphibious version and had buoyancy cells in the bow and

## NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN  
 (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

### COMPLAINT

My wife, Mary Anne, is right. Overloading a four-cylinder car taxes its performance. The Malibu LTZ was dragging and whining in higher elevations, an unhappy behavior that disappeared after the car was relieved of its burden.

### RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

When unloaded or loaded properly, the four-cylinder, six-speed Malibu LTZ accelerates and handles perfectly, meeting or exceeding the expectations of most family sedan drivers. Too much weight changes the dynamic, especially on curves, where handling can become a bit sloppy. Ride comfort—the way the car feels on human backs and bottoms—is consistently excellent.

### HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Classy exterior lines, simply elegant interior. The 2009 Malibu LTZ is one of the best-looking cars in its class.

### BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Chevrolet Malibu, completely restyled for 2008 and now smartly updated for 2009, is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive, mid-size, mid-priced family sedan. It's available with a four-cylinder engine mated to a four-speed transmission (base LS and mid-trim LT models); four-cylinder/six-speed (LTZ); or a 3.6-liter V-6/six-speed (Malibu 3.6 LTZ). There's also a four-cylinder, gas-electric Malibu Hybrid.

### CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Maximum trunk capacity is 15.1 cubic feet (but you can pile stuff on the back seats. Just avoid putting hard or sharp objects that can shift forward back there). Fuel capacity is 16 gallons of unleaded gasoline.

### MILEAGE

Weight matters. After dumping nearly 525 pounds of cargo, highway fuel economy improved to 30 miles per gallon from 27 mpg. Unloaded fuel economy in city driving was 21 mpg.

### SAFETY

Standard equipment includes side and head air bags, electronic stability and traction control and the OnStar emergency communications system. This column strongly endorses OnStar, which literally can mean the difference between life and death in a crash or other emergency.

### PRICE

The base price on the 2009 Malibu LTZ four-cylinder/six-speed automatic is \$26,020. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$24,589. Price as tested is \$26,670, including a \$650 destination charge. (This one included OnStar voice navigation.) Dealer's price as tested is \$25,239.

### PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The 2009 Malibu LTZ is the top of its class. It gets a definite "buy" here.

## Life & Style

# Buried loot a mystery for authorities

By MATT APUZZO and  
ALICIA A. CALDWELL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The businessman arrived at the Treasury Department carrying a suitcase stuffed with about \$5.2 million. The bills were decomposing, nearly unrecognizable, and he asked to swap them for a cashier's check. He said the money came from Mexico.

Money like this normally arrives in an armored truck or insured shipping container after a bank burns or a vault floods. It doesn't just show up at the visitor's entrance on a Tuesday morning. But the banking habits of Franz Felhaber had stopped making sense to the government long ago.

For the past few years, authorities say, he and his family have popped in and out of U.S. banks, looking to change about \$20 million in buried treasure for clean cash.

The money is always the same - decaying \$100 bills from the 1970s and 1980s.

It's the story that keeps changing:

- It was an inheritance.
- Somebody dug up a tree and there it was.
- It was found in a suitcase buried in an alfalfa field.
- A relative found a treasure map.

No matter where it came from or who found it, that buried treasure stands to make someone rich.

It could also send someone to jail.

■ ■ ■  
Felhaber is a customs broker, a middleman.

His company, F.C. Felhaber & Co., is just minutes away from the bridge between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Tens of billions of dollars of Mexican goods cross that bridge each year, aided by people such as Felhaber who navigate the customs bureaucracy.

Customs brokers don't own the stuff that comes into the United States. They just make sure it gets here.

So it is with the \$20 million. Felhaber says the money is not his. A Mexican relative, Francisco Javier Ramos Saenz-Pardo, merely sought help exchanging money that had been buried for decades, Felhaber says.

"To be very clear on this matter: In the beginning, I was not



Stacks of burned U.S. currency are examined at the Mutilated Currency Division of the Treasury Department in Washington, Thursday, July 17, 2008. AP

told what it was," Felhaber said in one of several telephone interviews with The Associated Press.

Money petrifies after sitting underground that long and Felhaber said it looked like a brick of adobe. The Treasury will exchange even badly damaged money, but Felhaber said Saenz-Pardo did not want to handle the process himself.

"Imagine a Mexican family bringing money that is damaged and the government calling it a drug deal," Felhaber said.

If the goal were to avoid unwarranted attention, he went about it all wrong. Rather than making a simple—albeit large—exchange at the Treasury, Felhaber allegedly began trying to exchange smaller amounts at El Paso-area banks, raising suspicion every time.

The first stop was the Federal Reserve Bank in El Paso, where authorities say Felhaber appeared with an uncle, Jose, and an aunt, Esther. In her purse, Esther carried \$120,000. She told bank officials there were millions more, discovered while digging to expand a building in Juarez, according to U.S. court records filed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Banks normally refer such requests to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, an arm of the Treasury. But employees worried that, with so much cash, the three might be robbed on their way home. So, the bank accepted the money and wired \$120,000 to an account in his uncle's name, Jose

Felhaber says he is not Ken Motley.

Customs investigators say a Bank of the West employee identified Felhaber's picture as

that of Ken Motley.

"That's an absolute lie," Felhaber said. "That would be a horrendous miscarriage of justice."

It's unclear which transaction caught investigators' attention. Most of the tens of thousands of exchanges of mutilated money each year are routine. Natural disasters create a lot of inquiries. Children of the Depression have kept money out of banks, only to see it eaten by rodents in their attics or destroyed in fires. A surprising number of people accidentally shred greeting cards with money inside.

But authorities say there are warning signs that trigger investigations. Making a series of small exchanges is one. Bringing mutilated money from abroad is another.

"That is one of the things we are extra concerned about: This process being used to launder money from illegal activities," said Leonard R. Olijar, the chief financial officer of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. "That's one of our factors that we use to make a case suspicious."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents questioned Felhaber in October 2005. According to a government summary of that interview, Felhaber said he believed the money was the result of a 1970s Mexican land deal. The money was buried in a coffin, he said, until Saenz-Pardo - the relative who brought him the money in the first place - discovered a map leading him to the buried treasure.

In April 2007, the case moved from being suspicious to becoming a criminal investigation. Im-

Felhaber said he didn't want to do anything illegal and was merely getting a cut of whatever he exchanged.

He now says he was mistaken in his interviews with investigators.

"I told them, 'I suspect this is where it's from but I didn't know,'" he said. "They take you to your word like you're supposed to remember every single thing every single time."

■ ■ ■

Maybe it was the visit from investigators or maybe someone realized the bank visits weren't working, but Felhaber apparently changed strategies.

In January 2006, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing received a package containing about \$136,000 from Jose Carrillo-Valles, Felhaber's uncle. Felhaber's business was listed as the return address. The letter explained the money had been stored in a basement for 22 years.

Though customs officials were suspicious by then, there was no clear evidence of a crime, just a lot of unanswered questions. So, two months later, the Treasury mailed a check, which was deposited into Carrillo-Valles' account.

Following the money, investigators interviewed Carrillo-Valles and his wife. Each denied ever sending or receiving the money, according to a government affidavit.

As for the \$120,000 wired to Jose's account from the Federal Reserve a year earlier, they allegedly said it was an inheritance. Esther said Jose's mother had recently died.

Authorities don't believe the inheritance story. For starters, they say Jose's mother was still alive when the \$120,000 was exchanged. They also traced a wire transfer from Jose's account to someone named Saenz-Pardo shortly after it was deposited.

Customs investigators now believed Carrillo-Valles was acting as an intermediary, taking a cut of the money and sending the rest to Saenz-Pardo or someone else in Mexico.

Twice, reporters called Carrillo-Valles on his cell phone to ask about the arrangement and confirm his discussions with investigators. First, he said he did not speak English. When a Spanish-speaking reporter called back, he said he could not hear her, and hung up.

In April 2007, the case moved from being suspicious to becoming a criminal investigation. Im-

migration and Customs Enforcement officials called the Justice Department, saying Felhaber had just arrived in person at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with about \$1.2 million.

It's not illegal to find money. Depending on where it's found, there might be a bureaucratic process to follow or taxes to be paid, but the discovery itself is not a crime.

There are strict rules, however, about bringing money into the United States. Import documents identified the \$1.2 million as belonging to Jose Carrillo-Valles. Based on their investigation so far, authorities believe that was a lie—a violation that carries up to five years in prison.

But Washington federal prosecutor William Cowden decided to wait. Maybe Felhaber would return with even more.

It paid off. This April, Felhaber was back at the Treasury, this time with a suitcase containing \$5.2 million. Investigators say they have found no import documents filed for this deal, a violation of cash smuggling laws that also carries up to five years in prison.

Prosecutors moved in. Felhaber's two Treasury visits gave them probable cause to seize the money - both the \$1.2 million and the \$5.2 million.

They told a federal magistrate in June that they suspected it was all drug money that had been buried or hidden inside a wall for decades.

## Nicaragua poet's sword mightier than his pen

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua** (AP)—The pen may be mightier than the sword, but it isn't quite as attractive for thieves.

Unidentified robbers have swiped a sword that belonged to Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario from a museum while leaving some of his valuable original manuscripts untouched.

Museum secretary Maria Elena Quintero said Sunday that police are investigating the disappearance of the ceremonial sword Dario used when he served as Nicaragua's ambassador to Spain. She did not give an estimate of the sword's value.

It was taken from a glass case at the museum in Dario's old home in the colonial city of Leon. It appears to be the only artifact missing.

Dario lived from 1867 to 1916 and is considered the father of the Modernismo movement.

## Western painting, bronze fetch \$9M-plus at auction

**RENO, Nev.** (AP)—Two iconic pieces by turn-of-the-century artist Charles M. Russell - a painting depicting a stagecoach holdup and a bronze sculpture of two Native Americans on a buffalo hunt - have sold at an auction

for more than \$9 million.

"The Hold Up," a 30-by-48-inch oil painting completed by the Montana artist in 1899, rustled up \$5.2 million Saturday, said Bob Drummond, co-founder of the Coeur d'Alene

Art Auction now held in Reno.

The bronze "Meat for Wild Men," completed in 1924, fetched \$4.1 million, he said.

At a 2005 auction, Russell's mythic "Piegan" image of Indians on horseback went for

\$5.6 million - more than double his previous auction high.

Russell, who captured the landscapes and spirit of the West during the late 1800s and early 1900s, died in 1926 at the age of 62.

The annual auction, which began in 1984, is billed as the largest Western art sale in the country.

A total of 178 works were sold Saturday for \$36.8 million. The event drew more than 450 bidders.

# Soap opera shakes customs of Arab married life

**RAMALLAH, West Bank**

(AP)—Every evening for the past four months, a tall young man with soulful blue eyes has been stealing hearts across the Middle East, from the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to the gated mansions of Riyadh.

But it's not just the striking good looks of Mohannad, hero of the hugely popular Turkish TV soap "Noor," that appeal to female viewers. He's romantic, attentive to his wife, Noor, supportive of her independence and ambitions as a fashion designer—in short, a rare gem for women in conservative, male-dominated surroundings.

"Noor" delivers an idealized portrayal of modern married life as equal partnership—clashing with the norms of traditional Middle Eastern societies where elders often have the final word on whom a woman should marry and many are still confined to the role of wife and mother.

Some Muslim preachers in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia have taken notice, saying the show is un-Islamic and urging the faithful to change channels. But all the same, the show may be planting seeds of change.

"I told my husband, 'learn from him (Mohannad) how he treats her, how he loves her, how he cares about her,'" said Heba Hamdan, 24, a housewife visiting the West Bank from Amman, Jordan. Married straight out of college, she said the show inspired her to go out and look for a job.

"Noor" seems particularly effective in changing attitudes because it offers new content in a familiar setting: Turkey is a Muslim country, inviting stronger viewer identification than Western TV imports. The characters in "Noor" observe the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, and Mohannad and



A Palestinian man holds a photograph depicting the lead characters of Turkish TV soap "Noor," displayed for sale at a street corner in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sunday, July 20, 2008.

Noor were married in a match arranged by his grandfather.

But it also upholds secular liberties: Protagonists have a drink with dinner and sex outside marriage. Mohannad, while faithful to Noor, had a child with

a former girlfriend, and a cousin underwent an abortion.

The nightly soap opera "shows that there are Muslims who live differently," said Islah Jad, a professor of women's studies at the West Bank's Bir

Zeit University.

The show's Turkish producer, Kemal Uzun, added: "We are a little more open, not as conservative as some of these countries, and I think this might have some appeal for the audience."

Even though some of the raunchy scenes are sanitized for Arab consumption, clerics have been sermonizing against "Noor." "This series collides with our Islamic religion, values and traditions," warned Hamed Bitawi, a lawmaker of the Islamic militant Hamas and preacher in the West Bank city of Nablus.

But the purists seem powerless to halt the "Noor" craze.

In Saudi Arabia, the only country with ratings, about three to four million people watch daily, out of a population of nearly 28 million, according to MBC, the Saudi-owned satellite channel that airs the show dubbed into Arabic for Middle East audiences.

In the West Bank and Gaza, streets are deserted during show time and socializing is timed around it. In Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and in Hebron, the West Bank's most conservative city, maternity wards report a rise in babies named Noor and Mohannad. A West Bank poster vendor has ditched Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein for Noor and Mohannad.

Jaro's Clothing Store in Gaza City is doing brisk business in copies of blouses seen on the show, including a sleeveless metallic number adapted to Gaza standards by being worn over a long-sleeved leotard.

Producer Uzun said the Istanbul villa on the Bosphorus, fictional home of Mohannad's upper-class clan, has been rented by tour operators and turned into a temporary museum for Arab visitors.

A recent cartoon in the Saudi paper Al-Riyadh showed a plain-looking man marching into a plastic surgeon's office with a picture of Mohannad with his designer stubble. (Kivanc Tatlitug, who plays Mohannad, is an ex-basketball player who won the 2002 "Best Model

of the World" award.)

In the West Bank city of Nablus, civil servant Mohammed Daraghmeh said he had MBC blocked at home so his kids couldn't watch, but the family vowed to watch it at an uncle's house and he backed down.

Hamas-ruled Gaza, keeping up with "Noor" is a challenge.

Power goes out frequently because of a yearlong blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after the violent Hamas takeover. When a blackout disrupts viewing, many set their alarms to catch the pre-dawn repeat.

In the Shati refugee camp, several teenage girls huddled around an old TV set recently, trying to follow the action despite overflights by pilotless Israeli aircraft that can scramble reception.

Ala Hamami, 17, wearing a black robe and head scarf, said she looks up to Noor because she is independent.

"This series gives strength to women in the future," said Hamami, although she was set on a very traditional path—she had just gotten engaged in an arranged match.

The cultural divide between modern Turkey and traditional Gaza became apparent in a scene where Mohannad and Noor, played by Songul Oden, both end up hospitalized. The girls giggled and Hamami quickly changed channels when Mohannad entered his wife's room and lay beside her to comfort her. The display of physical contact clearly made her uncomfortable.

Whether the "Noor" effect will be lasting is not known. The season finale falls Aug. 30, the day before Ramadan begins and religious fervor intensifies. Next up on MBC will be "Bab al-Hara," a Ramadan favorite that looks nostalgically at traditional Arab life.

## Ex-Google engineers debut 'Cuill' way to search

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Anna Patterson's last Internet search engine was so impressive that industry leader Google Inc. bought the technology in 2004 to upgrade its own system.

She believes her latest invention is even more valuable—only this time it's not for sale.

Patterson instead intends to upstage Google, which she quit in 2006 to develop a more comprehensive and efficient way to scour the Internet.

The end result is Cuill, pronounced "cool." Backed by \$33 million in venture capital, the search engine plans to begin processing requests for the first time Monday.

Cuill had kept a low profile while Patterson, her husband, Tom Costello, and two other former Google engineers—Russell Power and Louis Monier—searched for better ways to search.

Now, it's boasting time.

For starters, Cuill's search index spans 120 billion Web pages.

Patterson believes that's at least three times the size of Google's index, although there is no way to know for certain. Google stopped publicly quantifying its index's breadth nearly three years ago when the catalog spanned 8.2 billion Web pages.

Cuill won't divulge the formula it has developed to cover a wider swath of the Web with far fewer computers than Google. And Google isn't ceding the point: Spokeswoman Katie Watson said her company still believes its index is the largest.

After getting inquiries about Cuill, Google asserted on its blog Friday that it regularly scans through 1 trillion unique Web links. But Google said it doesn't index them all because they either point to similar content or would diminish the quality of its search results in some other way. The posting didn't quantify the size of

Google's index.

A search index's scope is important because information, pictures and content can't be found unless they're stored in a database. But Cuill believes it will outshine Google in several other ways, including its method for identifying and displaying pertinent results.

Rather than trying to mimic Google's method of ranking the quantity and quality of links to Web sites, Patterson says Cuill's technology drills into the actual content of a page. And Cuill's results will be presented in a more magazine-like format instead of just a vertical stack of Web links. Cuill's results are displayed with more photos spread horizontally across the page and include sidebars that can be clicked on to learn more about topics related to the original search request.

Finally, Cuill is hoping to attract traffic by promising not to retain information about its us-

ers' search histories or surfing patterns—something that Google does, much to the consternation of privacy watchdogs.

Cuill is just the latest in a long line of Google challengers.

The list includes swaggering startups like Teoma (whose technology became the backbone of Ask.com), Vivisimo, Snap, Mahalo and, most recently, Powerset, which was acquired by Microsoft Corp. this month.

Even after investing hundreds of millions of dollars on search, both Microsoft and Yahoo Inc. have been losing ground to Google. Through May, Google held a 62 percent share of the U.S. search market followed by Yahoo at 21 percent and Microsoft at 8.5 percent, according to comScore Inc.

Google has become so synonymous with Internet search that it may no longer matter how good Cuill or any other challenger is, said Gartner Inc. analyst Allen Weiner.

"Search has become as much about branding as anything else," Weiner said. "I doubt (Cuill) will be keeping anyone at Google awake at night."

Google welcomed Cuill to the fray with its usual mantra about its rivals. "Having great competitors is a huge benefit to us and everyone in the search space," Watson said. "It makes us all work harder, and at the end of the day our users benefit from that."

But this will be the first time that Google has battled a general-purpose search engine created by its own alumni. It probably won't be the last time, given that Google now has nearly 20,000 employees.

Patterson joined Google in 2004 after she built and sold Recall, a search index that probed old Web sites for the Internet Archive. She and Power worked on the same team at Google.

Although he also worked for Google for a short time, Monier

is best known as the former chief technology officer of AltaVista, which was considered the best search engine before Google came along in 1998. Monier also helped build the search engine on eBay's online auction site.

The trio of former Googlers are teaming up with Patterson's husband, Costello, who built a once-promising search engine called Xift in the late 1990s. He later joined IBM Corp., where he worked on an "analytic engine" called WebFountain.

Costello's Irish heritage inspired Cuill's odd name. It was derived from a character named Finn McCuill in Celtic folklore.

Patterson enjoyed her time at Google, but became disenchanted with the company's approach to search. "Google has looked pretty much the same for 10 years now," she said, "and I can guarantee it will look the same a year from now."

# 'Dark Knight' grosses \$300M, shattering record

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—“The Dark Knight” continues to obliterate box office records, crossing the \$300 million mark in just 10 days.

The epic Batman saga grossed \$75.6 million in its second weekend in theaters, pushing its domestic total to \$314,245,000, Warner Bros. head of distribution Dan Fellman said Sunday.

That surpasses the record set in 2006 by “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest,” which took 16 days to make \$300 million.

The latest Batman installment already had broken records for best opening weekend at \$158.4 million and best single-day with \$66.4 million. It’s also busted records in its showings on IMAX screens, making \$16.3 million in its first 10 days.

Fellman expects that “Dark Knight” could reach \$400 million in about 18 days, which



From left to right: Producer Charles Roven, British actor Christian Bale, director Christopher Nolan, U.S. actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, and U.S. actor Aaron Eckhart pose during a photocall for “The Dark Knight” film in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, July 23, 2008.

chance to surpass that number, it’s got to be ‘Dark Knight,’” Dergarabedian said.

Director Christopher Nolan’s follow-up to his 2005 origin story “Batman Begins,” which again stars Christian Bale as the tormented comic-book crime fighter, initially benefited from the mystique of the late Heath Ledger giving his masterful, last performance as the Joker, Dergarabedian said.

“Now, it’s all about word-of-mouth,” he said. “The first weekend, there was this huge, pent-up demand and eagerness by audiences to see this movie. Now, it’s like a freight train – it seems to be unstoppable.”

Part of the film’s visual allure comes from the fact that 30 minutes of it were shot with IMAX cameras, including an elaborate bank-heist scene at the start.

“Chris (Nolan) has clearly

parents get married.

Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony, said this was at the high end of the studio’s expectations.

“We’d hoped to be in the mid-to-high \$20 (millions), so to hit \$30 (million) is a great start,” Bruer said. “Having the chemistry of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly together again, reuniting with (director) Adam McKay who did ‘Talladega Nights,’ it’s great. They both immerse themselves and the humor comes from their connection.”

Sony also has the Will Smith superhero flick “Hancock,” which made \$8.2 million this past weekend to cross the \$200 million mark.

The weekend’s other big release was “The X-Files: I Want to Believe,” which made an estimated \$10.2 million. Ten years after the first “X-Files” movie

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X-Files: I Want to Believe

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20 7:25 9:50  
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20 7:25

David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson  
Thriller, Sci-Fi, Supernatural • Rated PG

**Synopsis**

The always-complicated relationship between Fox Mulder and Dana Scully moves in unexpected directions. Mulder continues his unshakable quest for the truth, and Scully, the passionate, ferociously intelligent physician, remains inextricably tied to Mulder’s pursuits.



The Step Brothers

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:35  
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:10

Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly  
Comedy • Rated R

**Synopsis**

Brennan Huff, a sporadically employed thirty-nine-year-old, lives with his mother, Nancy. Dale Doback, a terminally unemployed forty-year-old lives with his father, Robert. When Robert and Nancy marry and move in together, Brennan and Dale are forced to live with each other as step brothers. As their narcissism and downright aggressive laziness threaten to tear the family apart, these two middle-aged, immature, overgrown boys will orchestrate an insane, elaborate plan to bring their parents back together. To pull it off, they must form an unlikely bond that maybe, just maybe, will finally get them out of the house.



Dark Knight

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00  
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger  
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

Fri & Sat 1:05 @ 7:05 @  
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 @ 7:05

Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines  
Family-Oriented Comedy • Rated PG



Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:40  
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15

Selma Blair and Ron Perlman  
Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

**Mamma Mia**

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30  
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan  
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G



Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Fri & Sat @ 4:15 @ 9:45  
Sun thru Thurs @ 4:15 @

Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem  
Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

**Hancock**

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30  
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron  
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES

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would beat the record “Shrek 2” set in 2004 when it made that much money in 43 days.

“What can you say? We’ve been getting a lot of repeat business coming in,” Fellman said. “Our audience is expanding, like you would expect with terrific word-of-mouth and strong reviews. Our audience is getting a little bit older, that’s the good news. We’re finding the younger demographic, male and female, coming back.”

He called it “a big surprise,” adding: “To do \$300 (million) plus in 10 days, we just couldn’t have predicted it.”

“The Dark Knight” could pass “Titanic” as the highest-grossing film in U.S. history, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. James Cameron’s 1997 extravaganza made \$600,788,188 domestically, a record no other movie has come close to touching.

“The ‘Titanic’ record has sat in a lock box for 10 years. It’s a tall order but if any film has a

hit upon something,” said Greg Foster, chairman and president of IMAX Filmed Entertainment. “There are many important filmmakers who we’ve spoken with in the last couple of weeks about shooting with IMAX cameras.”

Coming in second place was “Step Brothers,” which had a strong opening of its own with \$30 million. The comedy reunites Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, co-stars of “Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby,” as 40-year-olds who’ve never left home and are forced to share a bedroom when their

**Ben Affleck takes journey to Congo**

**NEW YORK (AP)**—“Nightline” will focus on the humanitarian crisis in the Congo with the help of an unusual correspondent—Ben Affleck.

The 35-year-old actor took a “Nightline” crew on his recent fact-finding mission to Africa with the goal of spreading the word on a story that gets relatively little notice in the United States.

He’s been to the Congo three times in the past year. He said his motive was to learn about the war and hunger that have killed thousands of people per month in the past decade in hopes that the outside world would be moved to help, and his celebrity opened some doors.

“It’s fairly clear that in the modern age that there is a currency to celebrity, or celebrity is a currency, really,” Affleck told The Associated Press on Wednesday. “I’ve discovered that you can spend it in a lot of ways, or you can squander it. You can be taxed, as well. I really started thinking

long and hard about how to use that currency as long as I had it.”

His representatives approached “Nightline” with the idea of reporting on his journey. Affleck said he was impressed by “Nightline” stories in 2005 where “Hotel Rwanda” actor Don Cheadle visited that country.

“Nightline” executive producer James Goldston admitted to skepticism. ABC News took heat a decade ago for letting Leonardo DiCaprio interview President Clinton, and the idea of a concerned celebrity taking on a world problem has become a news staple.

“I was quite persuaded by how candid he was about the cliche of it, or the potential cliche,” Goldston said.

Affleck deals with that issue in the opening of his essay: “I want to try to bring people along to learn and if they might not tune into this unless there was some celebrity involved in it, either because they’re interested

and six years since the pioneering sci-fi show went off the air, this latest installment finds Mulder (David Duchovny) and Scully (Gillian Anderson) re-teaming to solve a missing-persons case.

“The hardcore ‘X-Files’ fans, they’re happy. And frankly, that’s who the movie was made for,” said Chris Aronson, distribution executive for 20th Century Fox.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

**Ben Affleck takes journey to Congo**

in the celebrity or because they want to see the celebrity kind of make a fool of himself, then so be it,” he says.

He doesn’t act as a reporter, Goldston said. The idea was to present the story as a personal journey, following Affleck as he met with survivors of the conflict, relief officials and even some warlords.

“Nightline” hasn’t done its own story on the Congo since 2002, although Cynthia McFadden recently took a trip to Africa to report on several issues there.

Affleck said one “Nightline” piece isn’t likely to change much, but the goal is to spread the word and hope that people in the United States can identify with some people who are suffering.

Perhaps then they could be moved to help, he said. Affleck hasn’t identified himself with any particular relief organization that is helping the Congo.

He believes people will respond to this approach.

# LaBeouf booked for DUI after late-night wreck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving Sunday after an early morning wreck in which the “Indiana Jones” star injured his hand and knee, authorities said.

LaBeouf was trying to make a left turn at a West Hollywood intersection around 3 a.m. when his pickup collided with another vehicle, rolling the truck over, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Sgt. Scott Wolf said.

“It was immediately apparent to officers responding on the scene that LaBeouf was intoxicated and he was subsequently placed under arrest,” Wolf said.

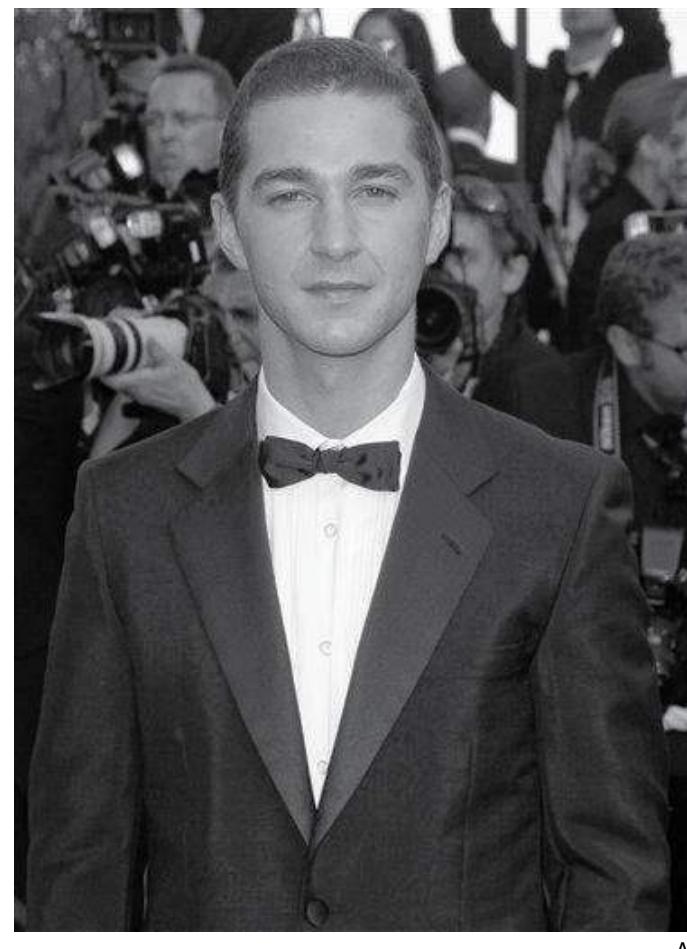
Wolf said LaBeouf was booked then released for misdemeanor DUI. The 22-year-old actor was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and was being treated for injuries to his left hand and a knee, as well as a minor head injury, Wolf said.

A woman passenger in LaBeouf’s truck and the driver of the other vehicle were not seriously injured. Wolf did not know the identities of the woman or the other driver.

The cause of the crash remained under investigation, Wolf said. Two attorneys listed for LaBeouf did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press on Sunday.

Melissa Kates, a publicist for the actor, said LaBeouf underwent hand surgery and plans to return to work within a month. She declined further comment.

The accident occurred when LaBeouf, who was headed northbound on La Brea Avenue, tried to turn onto Fountain Avenue, Wolf said. The intersection is the location of “High Voltage,” the tattoo parlor where the TLC real-



In this May 18, 2008 file photo, actor Shia LaBeouf arrives for the premiere of the film “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

## Renowned Egyptian director Chahine dies at age 82

By LEE KEATH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

because its plot was based on the story of Joseph, found in the Bible and Quran. Most interpretations of Islam ban the depiction of prophets.

Chahine was born on Jan. 25, 1926 to a Christian family of Lebanese origin in Alexandria, the Mediterranean port known at the time as a cosmopolitan city, with large European and other foreign communities. Throughout his more than 40 films and documentaries, Chahine sought to recapture and defend the spirit of multicultural tolerance against the forces he saw undermining it—fundamentalism, dictatorship and imperialism.

Chahine grew up speaking French and English better than Arabic, and many of his films were French co-productions, bringing criticism by some at home that he was not Arab—or Egyptian—enough. But his early films became classics of social realism, giving gritty depictions of the lowest in Egyptian society. In his 1958 “Cairo Station,” Chahine himself starred as Qenawi, a mentally retarded newspaper seller at Cairo’s main railroad station, who becomes obsessed with a woman selling lemonade.

Chahine’s eclectic work made him one of the few Egyptian directors to gain an audience abroad, particularly in Europe and France, where he won a lifetime achievement award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy issued a statement Sunday calling Chahine one of cinema’s “most celebrated servants” and “a fervent defender of freedom of expression.”

“Youssef Chahine sought throughout his life to denounce, through images, censure, fanaticism and fundamentalism,” Sarkozy said.

At home, his films raised controversy for their frank portrayal of sexuality, their sharp criticism of political oppression and, in his later works, their denunciations of rising Islamic extremism in Egypt.

In 1994, a fundamentalist lawyer succeeded in getting a court to ban his film “The Emigrant”

ity show “LA Ink” is filmed.

LaBeouf starred in last year’s summer smash hit “Transformers,” and this year appears opposite Harrison Ford in “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.”

LaBeouf has had previous brushes with the law, but until now they’d been relatively harmless—to the degree that they only served to reinforce his image as a Hollywood good guy with an edge.

A drunken confrontation with guards at a Walgreens in Chicago late last year led to misdemeanor criminal trespassing charges. Arresting police in that incident noted that LaBeouf was “very courteous and polite,” and the charge was dropped because the drug store didn’t want to pursue the matter.

In a lighthearted retelling of the incident to David Letterman on the “Late Show,” LaBeouf said: “Drinking and driving is one thing, but drinking and shopping ... it’s just as bad.”

LaBeouf was separately cited in February for smoking where he shouldn’t in Burbank, but a judge later dismissed the charge.

## Wife who left and never came back now talks of coming home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Nine months ago, my wife, “Marie,” left to go shopping and never came back. She took off leaving me and our three sons, ages 12, 14 and 16, without a word. We had been married 25 years.

We had no contact for the first three months, and she has not helped support the kids in any way. She told no one—including her family—that she had left. Friends would see me in public and ask where she was.

Marie has recently started talking about coming home, but I have mixed feelings. I asked why she left. She said she was unhappy and tired of living a lie. What lie? Marie refuses to elaborate.

Two of our sons don’t want her back. They felt abandoned when she disappeared. My other son says he doesn’t care whether she comes back or not as long as she leaves him alone. I keep remembering the quote, “A house divided cannot stand,” and I wonder about us. Please advise me.

LOST IN THE BIG CITY

**DEAR LOST:** Under the circumstances, I’d say the feelings you and the boys are experiencing are normal. However, all of you need to come to terms with why your wife and their mother walked out so abruptly. Before she returns, it is important that you understand why she felt that leaving the way she did was her only option.

It will take time for her relationship with the boys to be repaired and for the two of you to rebuild trust. This is not to say that your “house divided” cannot be rehabilitated and even made more storm-proof than before. But don’t kid yourselves: It will take work on the part of everyone.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My son-in-law, “Tony,” is very ill and probably won’t make it. It is a terrible tragedy for our family. He will leave behind a bereft wife and children.

During his last crisis I traveled across country to support my daughter, “Janet.” My husband, “Doug,” isn’t Janet’s father, and now he says he doesn’t want me going to the funeral. He says I have spent enough time on Tony, and my visit was a “waste of money.”

He says Janet wanting me there is a ploy—that she’s “playing me.” Granted, she had some hard feelings when I divorced her father and married Doug, but we have made up. I feel I need to be at the funeral to support her.

There has been no love lost between Janet and Doug. He does not get along with his own kids from a previous marriage either. But should this interfere with my attending the funeral? Doug says my going would be a betrayal to him and has threatened divorce if I go. How should I handle this?

TORN IN DES MOINES

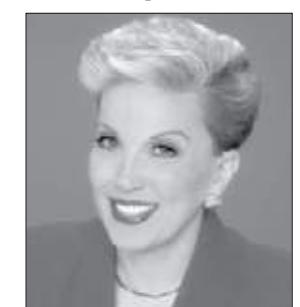
**DEAR TORN:** Although I hate to label anyone, let me point out that by issuing an ultimatum, your husband is behaving like a control freak. If you want this pattern to be repeated until the day one of you dies, stay home and don’t attend the funeral.

Let me also point out that a daughter needing all the emotional support she can get as she buries her husband is not a “ploy.” It’s a cry for help. Your grandchildren might also appreciate having you close.

Your husband is behaving like a petulant child. You have an extremely important decision to make, and it’s about a larger issue than the funeral. Only you can decide the right choice for you.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*



*Dear Abby*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



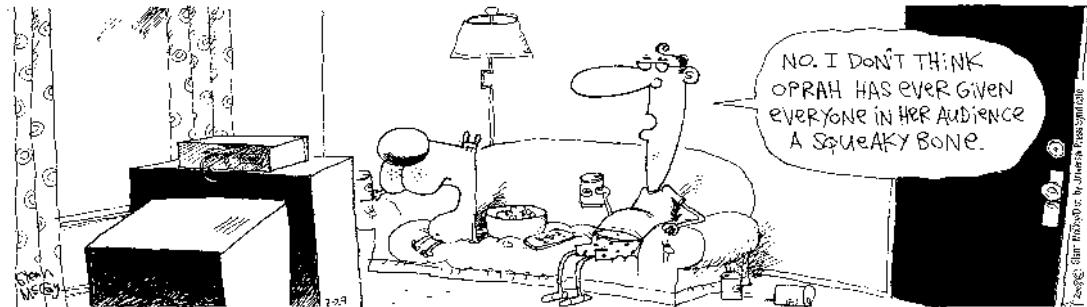
By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Genetic abbr.	DOWN	24	Wahine's bestowal
1	Bum somewhat	39 Samovar	1	Family	25 Mel of Coopers-town
5	Big bother	40 Valentino portrayal	2	Base runner's goal	26 Deposit
8	New Mexico art colony	43 Copy-right-free illustrations	3	Acknowl-edge	27 Broadcast
12	Zero, at Wimble-don	47 "USA Today" graph	4	Forward, in a sense	28 Predeter-mine the victory
13	Pinch	49 Lotion additive	5	Irate	29 Dead heat
14	Desire	50 Not working	6	Regi-men	31 Mono-kini's lack
15	Andy's pal	51 Apiece, e.g.	7	Choose	34 Data for Drew Carey
16	Adams spy spoof	52 Capri or Wight	8	Din	35 Egyptian cross
18	Sitcom set at a Vermont inn	53 "Untouch-ables" boss	9	40-Across, Across,	36 — Lanka
20	Go down the — (deterio-rate)	11 Collec-tions	10	Shrek is one	37 Waiting for a check
21	Wall climber	12 Halt	13	17 Halt	39 Extreme
22	Fa follower	14 Caesar	15	Four p.m.	40 "Wheel of Fortune" option
23	Seek out a J.P.	16 ... as hand-some —	16	19 "Hail,	41 Conceal
26	Breakfast pastry	20 Recede	17	Caesar	42 Slithery swim-mers
30	Wager		18	22 Sauce source	43 Algon-quian language
31	Purchase		19	23 Recede	44 Additionally
32	Midafternoon, on a sundial		20		45 Charac-terization
33	Cameo, maybe		21		46 Links props
36	Sudden voltage increase		22		48 Suitable

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wanya Morris, 35; Martina McBride, 42; Ken Burns, 55; Geddy Lee, 55

**Happy Birthday:** This is a great year to get serious, renew your vows or make a commitment to someone you love. You can expect some of the things you do to cause a ruckus with some of your acquaintances. You have to please yourself. A power play will challenge you but, if you put your Leo charm to good use, you will maintain the status quo. Your numbers are 6, 13, 18, 22, 34, 40

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Don't let a personal matter stop you from enjoying yourself. Problems at home will escalate if you stick around. Focus on work or on projects or activities you find stimulating and that can help you build a better future. Avoid negativity. ☀☀

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Open your mind to something new. Attending a trade-show, lecture or event can help you recognize what needs to be changed in your life. A job interview or your current position shows evidence of opportunity and advancement. ☀☀

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You will tend to change your mind based on your emotions today, confusing those with whom you discuss matters of importance. Try not to promise too much just to have everyone like you. Love is in the stars and an eventful evening should be planned. ☀☀

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): If you fret over matters without doing something to make amends or fix what's not working, you will fail to see the situation clearly. Avoid-

ance will be your downfall. Don't let your fears hold you back. ☀☀

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You can strike a chord that most will relate to and speak strongly about issues that concern you. Popularity and support will develop. Love issues will be emotional and should be handled as honestly as possible. ☀☀

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't give in to someone's emotional blackmail or ultimatums. Develop new connections with people who can enrich your personal life or help you advance professionally. Get everything in writing. ☀☀

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can learn from an emotional experience. Keep an open mind and observe how everyone around you reacts. Love is mounting and can lead to a better current relationship or to meeting someone who interests you. Think and react. ☀☀

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone is likely to try to break down your resistance, pushing you to do something that isn't a good fit for you. Your own ideas are good, so act on them. Reconsider some of your partnerships. ☀☀

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Problems while traveling or dealing with people in higher positions will arise. Get the work out of the way first today. ☀☀

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Talk about any matters that concern you and put

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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myths or gossip to rest quickly. A partnership may need encouragement and reinforcement, confirming you are still interested in the connection. A little fussing over someone will go a long way. ☀☀

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Taking a serious emotional position will help straighten out any misconceptions. A chance to do something nice for someone who has always supported you emotionally will reinforce how much this person means to you. Be open about your feelings. ☀☀

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Consider ways that will entice your friends and family to spend more time at home with you. A service that can offer you the help you need to get your place in tiptop shape should be put to the task. Comfort should be your prime concern. ☀☀

**Birthday Baby:** You are inventive and a do-gooder who can be emotional when it comes to your beliefs, traditions and values. You are a passionate and giving partner.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	9			7	
4	6	7	3	6	9
9	2		5	7	
8			2		
6	2	4	1		
8	3	8	9	3	7
8	3		7	2	
9		1	8		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	7	5	9	4	6	2	8
2	6	5	7	1	8	4	9	3
4	8	9	6	3	2	5	1	7
9	4	2	3	6	1	7	8	5
8	7	3	2	5	9	1	4	6
1	5	6	4	8	7	2	3	9
7	3	1	9	4	6	8	5	2
5	2	4	8	7	3	9	6	1
6	9	8	1	2	5	3	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROMAN AQUEDUCTS

Solution: 8 letters

C	S	L	L	A	W	T	©	H	A	N	N	E	F
V	I	L	L	A	S	I	L	T	R	H	T	C	O
S	H	T	A	B	I	E	Ⓐ	O	C	T	R	L	S
U	M	A	S	O	N	R	Y	O	H	G	E	N	N
I	K	A	G	R	T	S	T	M	E	N	V	A	T
V	R	C	N	E	L	T	E	S	S	E	I	N	A
U	O	I	I	D	R	A	C	E	U	L	D	S	R
R	W	R	N	A	S	S	T	A	E	D	E	P	R
T	T	F	I	L	E	A	N	R	N	P	N	A	S

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**Yesterday's Answer:** Kvetcher

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# Gossage, Williams inducted into Hall of Fame



**COOPERSTOWN, N.Y.** (AP)—For more than two decades, Rich “Goose” Gossage unnerved batters as one of baseball’s most menacing and dominating relief pitchers. On Sunday, it was his turn for the jitters.

“This experience is overwhelming, over the top. I can’t put in words what this means,” Gossage told a decidedly New York Yankees crowd during the National Baseball Hall of Fame ceremony that capped his 22-year career.

Gossage had to pause twice to collect his thoughts—including once when he was moved to tears talking about now dead teammates Thurman Munson and Bobby Murcer.

“I’m like a kid going on his first ride at Disney World and not getting off for 22 years,” said Gossage, whose speech was interspersed with choruses of “Goose” from the crowd.

Dick Williams—one of Gossage’s former managers—also was inducted Sunday. Williams managed six teams in 21-year career, winning the World Series with the Oakland Athletics in 1972 and 1973. He also won league pennants with the Boston Red Sox in 1967 and San Diego Padres in 1984.

“It’s hard to believe that at age 79, this has to be one of my most memorable times,” said Williams, whose 1,571 wins are



Dick Williams, right, and Rich “Goose” Gossage pose after being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., Sunday, July 27, 2008.

good for 17th place all-time.

More than 14,000 people watched the ceremony, including a record 56 of the 64 living Hall of Famers.

Gossage was elected in January on his ninth try, almost unimaginable given his pioneering place in the evolution of today’s relief pitcher.

Gossage—entering the hall wearing a New York Yankees hat—finished his career in 1994 with a 124-107 record, 1,502

strikeouts and 3.01 ERA in 1,002 games. He ranks third in both wins in relief (115) and innings pitched in relief (1,556).

Of his 310 career saves, Gossage worked more than two innings 52 times. By comparison, prior to the 2008 season, Yankees closer Mariano Rivera had done that just once in 443 saves and San Diego’s Trevor Hoffman, the career saves leader, has never done it.

In 125 of his saves, Gossage recorded at least six outs.

The 57-year-old Gossage, a nine-time All-Star, joins Bruce Sutter, Hoyt Wilhelm, Rollie Fingers, and Dennis Eckersley as relievers enshrined in Cooperstown.

Gossage signed with the Chicago White Sox in 1970. Chicago manager Chuck Tanner made a special trip to Class-A Appleton of the Midwest League in 1971 to teach Gossage to throw a changeup. Gossage finished

the season 18-2, was selected

league player of the year, and made the jump to the White Sox the next season.

In Gossage’s rookie year, roommate Tom Bradley dubbed him “Goose,” saying Gossage looked like a goose when he leaned over on the mound to get the catcher’s sign. And at 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds with a 99-mph fastball, Fu Manchu mustache and menacing stare, “Goose” became one of the era’s most intimidating pitchers.

Gossage told the crowd he developed his unorthodox pitching form as a teen throwing in the backyard with his older brother, who called him a sissy and challenged him to throw harder.

“That’s where that wild flailing came from, all arms and legs coming right at you,” Gossage said.

Gossage said he was blessed to have some of the greatest pitch instructors help him: Johnny Sain, Larry Sherry and Galen Cisco, among them. He said former slugger Dick Allen “taught me about pitching from a hitter’s perspective.”

It was Sain who taught him “the art of off-speed pitching. That pitch, with my power, was exactly what I needed,” Gossage said.

Gossage played for nine teams but his star shone brightest in the six years he spent in Yankee pinstripes.

Gossage signed as a free agent with New York in November

1977 and in his first season in the Bronx had 27 saves and a 2.01 ERA to help lead baseball’s most storied franchise to its second straight World Series triumph.

Williams, known for his nonsense approach, credited the late Branch Rickey and former manager Bobby Bragan with having the greatest influence on him as a manager. Williams also spent 13 years as a utility player.

Despite his successes in Boston, Oakland and San Diego, Williams said in his opinion he did his best managing in Montreal, where he won 90-plus games in back-to-back seasons with a young, starless Expos team.

Gossage and Williams, who worked 10 years as a Yankee scout, both gave George Steinbrenner a plug for induction into the hall of fame, saying the Yankees owner had made baseball better everywhere by raising the level of competition.

Others inducted Sunday were former Dodgers owner Walter O’Malley, former Pirates owner Barney Dreyfuss, former commissioner Bowie Kuhn, and former manager Billy Southworth, all deceased. Along with Williams, they were voted in by the revamped Veterans Committee.

Also honored were the late Larry Whiteside, a pioneering black journalist, who received the J.G. Taylor Spink Award; and Ford C. Frick Award winner Dave Niehaus.

## Ramirez, Ortiz spark Red Sox in 9-2 win over Yankees in series finale



**BOSTON**  
(A P)—  
M a n n y  
Ramirez

drove in two runs and shifted the focus from his talk about being traded by helping the Boston Red Sox end New York’s eight-game winning streak with a 9-2 victory over the Yankees on Sunday.

Ramirez doubled twice just hours after saying he was “tired” of the Red Sox and would agree to a trade if it made him and the team happy. David Ortiz homered and drove in three runs in just his third game after missing 45 with an injured left wrist.

Boston, preventing a three-game sweep, scored in the first four innings, taking a 7-0 lead against Sidney Ponson (6-2), who hadn’t lost since May 26.

Jon Lester (9-3) stayed unbeaten since his last loss on May 25.

### Orioles 5, Angels 2

At Baltimore, Justin Morneau sparked a two-run, ninth-inning rally with a RBI double as Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Olson (7-5) allowed two runs and seven hits in six-plus innings, helping the Orioles end a five-game losing streak.

Just as important, it provided Baltimore with its first win on Sunday since April 6. Since that game,

the Orioles compiled the longest skid on one day of the week since Arizona dropped 15 successive Saturday games in 2004.

### Tigers 6, White Sox 4

At Detroit, Curtis Granderson and Marcus Thames homered and Detroit beat Chicago to avoid a three-game sweep.

Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs and Ivan Rodriguez went 4-for-4 for Detroit. Zach Miner (5-3) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings to earn his first win against Chicago after losing five decisions.

### Twins 4, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Justin Morneau sparked a two-run, ninth-inning rally with a RBI double as Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Alexi Casilla started the ninth-inning rally with one out, lining a pitch from Rafael Perez (1-2) down the left-field line for a ground-rule double. Morneau doubled in Casilla for a 3-2 lead. Jason Kubel drove in Morneau with a single to give Minnesota a two-run lead.

### Mariners 5, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Jose Vidro hit a two-run homer, Jarrod Washburn pitched eight strong innings and Seattle snapped a season-long seven-game losing streak.

Toronto’s season-high five-

game winning streak also ended.

The subject of trade rumors, Washburn (5-9) shook off the speculation and gave up one run and four hits.

### Royals 6, Rays 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler homered and drove in four runs, Kyle Davies picked up his first victory in more than a month and Kansas City beat Tampa Bay to salvage a split of their four-game series.

Butler hit a RBI double in the fourth and a three-run drive off the left-field foul pole in the seventh. He has four homers and 14 RBIs in nine games since the All-Star break.

### Athletics 6, Rangers 5

At Oakland, California, Jack Cust and Kurt Suzuki homered and Athletics reliever Brad Ziegler set the major league record for scoreless innings to start a career in Oakland’s win over Texas.

Ziegler gave up two singles in two shutout innings to extend his scoreless streak to 27 innings since May 30.

### Mets 9, Cardinals 1

At New York, Johan Santana pitched his seventh complete game, Fernando Tatís and Ramon Castro hit two-run homers and the New York Mets pounded Kyle Lohse and the St. Louis

Cardinals to wrap up another successful homestand.

Santana (9-7) allowed six hits and a walk in winning for just the second time since June 1, a maddening stretch during which he was tagged with four losses and four no-decisions. He also scored a run and drove in another while throwing his first complete game since a shutout of the Mets in June 2007 when he was with Minnesota.

### Cubs 9, Marlins 6

At Chicago, Derrek Lee homered and Mike Fontenot had a pinch-hit, three-run double during a four-run seventh inning, helping Chicago rally for a win that gave them sole possession of the National League Central division lead.

Chicago split its four-game series with Florida.

### Astros 11, Brewers 6

At Milwaukee, Geoff Blum hit a pair of home runs for Houston, including a three-run shot that capped a seven-run fifth.

Blum hit both homers off Jeff Suppan (5-7), and is batting .542 (13-for-24) in his career against the pitcher.

### Phillies 12, Braves 10

At Philadelphia, Pat Burrell hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the fifth inning and Philadelphia ral-

lied for the win again.

Chris Coste, Shane Victorino, Jayson Werth and Jimmy Rollins also went deep for Philadelphia, which overcame a 5-0 deficit a day after coming back from a 9-3 hole.

Since June 5, the Phillies are 8-1 against Atlanta and 12-22 against everyone else.

### Padres 3, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Jake Peavy struck out 10 in seven innings and Scott Hairston hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth for San Diego.

Hairston hit a 2-0 pitch from John Grabow (5-3) into the left-field bleachers for his 17th home run of the season.

Peavy (8-6) allowed one run and four hits.

### Rockies 11, Reds 0

At Cincinnati, Garrett Atkins and Jeff Baker homered, Ubaldo Jimenez turned in another terrific start and Colorado completed a three-game sweep.

Chris Iannetta also homered for the Rockies, who wrapped up their first sweep of a road series this season and first in Cincinnati since June 2001.

Colorado extended its winning streak to five games, matching its season high, and finished with 14 hits in its biggest win of the season. The Rockies are 9-1 since the All-Star break.

Bergmann (1-8) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings.

### Diamondbacks 7, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Randy Johnson tossed seven shutout innings to win his fourth straight start and Arizona completed its first sweep in San Francisco in seven years.

Conor Jackson had three hits, including a home run for the NL West-leading Diamondbacks.

Fred Lewis had four hits for the Giants, who have lost 12 of their last 16 games.

Johnson (8-7) earned his first win in San Francisco since July 2002. He allowed nine hits, struck out two and did not walk a batter. Johnson, who recorded career win No. 292, extended his scorelessinning streak to 15, his longest since 19 straight in September 2002.

### Dodgers 2, Nationals 0

At Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw outpitched Jason Bergmann for his first major league victory, leading Los Angeles to the win and three-game sweep.

In a matchup of pitchers who were winless in their previous 20 starts combined, 20-year-old Kershaw (1-3) prevailed, allowing four hits in six-plus innings.

Bergmann (1-8) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings.

James Loney homered for the Dodgers.

# Favre a no-show to Packers camp—for now



**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Brett Favre didn't report to the Green Bay Packers' training camp Sunday, temporarily easing tensions in the three-time MVP's ongoing standoff with the team.

Packers spokesman Jeff Blumb confirmed Sunday that Favre did not report to camp with Packers players, who were required to report at 7:30 a.m. CDT.

Favre told si.com that Packers general manager Ted Thompson had asked him for "a couple of days" to resolve the situation.

"I agreed to do that," Favre told the site. "I don't want to be a distraction to the Packers, and I hope in the next few days we can come to an agreement that would allow me to continue playing football."

That agreement, presumably, would be a trade. The New York Jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers have emerged as two potential trade partners for the Packers, and Favre told si.com that he would consider a trade to any team.

Packers players were scheduled to attend meetings and take physicals Sunday. Running back Ryan Grant - an exclusive-rights free agent who has refused to sign a tender offer from the team and is pursuing a long-term deal—also did not report Sunday morning.

Players, coaches and Thompson were not scheduled to meet with reporters until after the Packers' first practice Monday morning.

To report to camp, Favre first would have to file for reinstatement with the league and have his request approved by commissioner Roger Goodell, something that didn't happen Saturday. Then he'd have to pass a team physical.

In the si.com interview, con-

ducted at his home in Mississippi, Favre said he has been speaking with Goodell and hopes the commissioner could be "some sort of arbitrator" in his impasse with the Packers.

The Packers were willing to take Favre back as recently as late March, several weeks after he retired. But after Favre led team officials to believe

rights belong to the Packers until his contract expires after the 2010 season.

Favre told si.com he was interviewed this week by an NFL official about tampering charges filed by the Packers against the Vikings. Favre said he talked to Vikings coach Brad Childress and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell—which by itself wouldn't

meetings.

"In my mind, it's no different than me talking to Donovan McNabb as he's going to training camp or talking to Brian Westbrook," the former Eagles coach said. "You communicate with people in this league. You don't leave past relationships."

On Saturday, Packers coach Mike McCarthy said even he wasn't sure how the Favre saga would play out. But he did make it clear that Aaron Rodgers is his starting quarterback.

"Aaron Rodgers is the starting quarterback for the Green Bay Packers," McCarthy said. "That's been stated over and over again. I hope we can finally understand that. That's where we are as an organization and as a head coach of the Green Bay Packers. I don't know how else to answer that question."

But even given Favre's iffy commitment to football, doesn't he still give the Packers their best chance to win in 2008?

"As simple as a question as that sounds, it's obviously more complicated than that," McCarthy said.

Taking Favre back might seem like an easy answer, but doing so would undermine the message McCarthy and his assistants have been preaching to players for nearly five months: it's time to move forward.

"Moving forward as a football team is really the identity of the whole football team," McCarthy said. "Brett Favre's had an incredible career here. He's been the focal point of the Packers, the face of the Green Bay Packers."

Despite his background as a quarterbacks coach, McCarthy prefers to win with defense—a philosophy that

presumably works best with steady but unspectacular play from a quarterback.

"The football team has moved forward with the emphasis on defense," McCarthy said. "Because that's what I believe in."

Even with his firm commitment to Rodgers and the defense, McCarthy couldn't completely rule out the possi-

bility of Favre starting another game for the Packers. But McCarthy's quote—"You never say never"—seemed more like an offhanded acknowledgment of the unpredictable nature of the game than a subtle hint that Favre could win his job back.

"If he reinstates, he'll be part of our roster," McCarthy said. "That's really as far as we can go."



Julia Barreda, 17, of Sarasota, Fla., holds a sign in the grandstands that reads "I Want Favre," referring to quarterback Brett Favre, during the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' NFL football training camp Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. AP

he was ready to return, only to change his mind again and stay retired, the team made a firm commitment to moving forward.

Now, Packers officials have made it clear that Favre wouldn't be the starter if he returned. And they aren't willing to grant his request to be released because they fear he would sign with division rival Minnesota. Favre's

constitute tampering—but denied that either of them tried to entice him to come to the Vikings, as the Packers suspect.

Childress said Sunday that any conversations he had with Favre were merely to catch up with a player he has known since he was an assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin who would occasionally sit in on Green Bay's quarterback

tie in the British Open.

Scott McCarron had a 63 Saturday—the best round of the week—to get to 12 under. Steve Marino (67) also was 12 under, and Billy Mayfair (68) followed at 11 under.

Canadian star Mike Weir birdied four of the last five holes Saturday for 68 to join to Mark Calcavecchia (67), Sean O'Hair (67) and Nicolas Thompson (70) at 10 under. Two-time defending champion Jim Furyk was 8 under after a 67.

## Bears' Hester gets reported \$40 million extension

**BOURBONNAIS, Ill.**

(AP)—A half hour into his first practice of training camp Sunday, Devin Hester got behind cornerback Charles Tillman and hauled in a 40-yard pass from quarterback Rex Grossman.

It's the type of thing the Chicago Bears are hoping to see a lot during the regular season after signing Hester to a four-year contract extension, reportedly worth up to \$40 million.

"I think the Bears have a lot of faith in me, and they feel that I do a lot of things on the offensive side of the ball, so they rewarded me," said Hester, who in two seasons is two touchdown returns short of Brian Mitchell's record of 13 kick or punt returns touchdowns - a mark that took 14 years to set.

After a standoff between Hester's agent, Eugene Parker, and the team ended Sunday morning, Bears coach Lovie Smith wore a huge smile.

"I'm smiling most of the time I'm talking about Devin Hester; now I can ... a little bit more," Smith said after practice.

At issue for the Bears was whether to pay Hester like a return man or like a top wide receiver when they made him the 22nd player on the current roster to receive a contract extension. They converted Hester to wide receiver last year when he made 20 catches, and this year expect him to start in place of lost free agent wide receiver Bernard Berrian.

"This one was probably the most difficult one we've had to do and probably ever will do because we're not only rewarding a special player," Bears general manager Jerry Angelo said. "If you look at it as a returner, we blew that (money total) out of the water. It was now looking at him as what he might be or could be as a receiver. That's where the real difficulties were and a real challenge."

It was a challenge that led Hester to hold out for two days before reporting Friday and watching from the sidelines for two days with what the Bears called a hamstring injury. After signing Sunday, he showed no signs of a hamstring pull.

"It's feeling great," Hester

said of the hamstring. "It's a little tight, but I was able to push through it and just try to work it out and stretch it a lot. Right now I feel great. I wouldn't say it's a major issue."

The deal adds four years to the two years already remaining on Hester's contract. The Chicago Sun-Times reported Hester received in excess of \$15 million in guaranteed bonuses, with \$10 million possible in 2013, the final year of the deal.

The Bears this past year also negotiated contract extensions for kicker Robbie Gould, linebacker Brian Urlacher, defensive tackle Tommie Harris, tight end Desmond Clark, defensive end Alex Brown, and signed linebacker Lance Briggs and quarterbacks Rex Grossman and Kyle Orton to new deals.

"I don't think I've ever been this busy in an offseason, and I don't think I ever will again," Angelo said. "We did a lot, hopefully we accomplished a lot."

Angelo said it should be obvious now he wasn't just paying lip service to the notion that the Bears try to reward their own.

"Talk is cheap," Angelo said. "We put teeth into it. The good news is the players we have here want to be Bears. Certainly they want their money, we're all understanding of that, but they also make the commitment to me, to (coach) Lovie (Smith) and to our fans that they want to be Bears."

Now comes the task of turning Hester into a premier wide receiver. He struggled learning the offense at times last year.

"Last year he was a guy who was a return specialist, obviously, that was going to be a part-time player at receiver, play a little bit and have a small package in the offense for him," offensive coordinator Ron Turner said. "This year he's committed to being a full-time receiver and to learn the entire offense. We didn't hold anything back in the minicamp and (off-season workouts) so he's way ahead of where he was last year at this time. He's made that commitment and he's learned it and done a good job and we're excited to get him back out there."

## Reavie birdies 18th for Canadian Open lead

**OAKVILLE, Ontario** (AP)—Chez Reavie birdied the par-5 18th hole Sunday morning to take a one-stroke lead over Anthony Kim after the third round of the Canadian Open.

Reavie was 2 under through 16 holes when darkness ended play Saturday night on the course saturated by more than 8 inches of rain in a week. He had a 25-foot putt from the fringe on No. 17 when he called it a day.

On Sunday morning, Reavie

putted to 3 feet to set up a par on 17, then regained the lead with a tap-in birdie on the 502-yard closing hole. He finished with a 3-under 68 for a 16-under 197 total at soggy Glen Abbey.

Reavie played 33 holes in 13 under Friday, shooting 65-64 for a tournament-record matching 13-under 129 total and a three-stroke lead after the completion of the suspended second round Saturday morning.

The 23-year-old Kim, tied for 26th at 4 under through 15 holes when second-round play was suspended Friday night, went birdie-birdie-eagle

Saturday morning for a 2-under 69, then added a bogey-free 64 in the third round to match Reavie at 15 under when play was suspended. Kim won the Wachovia Championship and AT&T National this year and is coming off a seventh-place

**CANADIAN OPEN**

in the British Open.

Scott McCarron had a 63 Saturday—the best round of the week—to get to 12 under. Steve Marino (67) also was 12 under, and Billy Mayfair (68) followed at 11 under.

Canadian star Mike Weir

**SASTRE**

From Page 28

designer drug—by Italy's Riccardo Ricco and Spaniards Beltran and Moises Duenas Nevado.

Ricco's Saunier Duval team quit the race and fired him, and the sponsor said it was ending its relationship with pro cycling. Barloworld, a South African conglomerate behind Duenas Nevado's team, said it would do so as well.

Ricco won the sixth and ninth stages. After his positive test was announced before Stage 12, it looked as if the cheats had been chastened if not deterred.

Tour officials seemed relieved to see cyclists suffer after each day's ride. It was as if that was a telltale sign they hadn't relied on pick-me-ups to withstand the ordeal of a trek covering more than 2,175 miles.

This year, because of a long dispute, the Tour said it would not use cycling's governing body to conduct drugs tests. It gave the job to the French anti-doping agency, contending an outside agency with no ties to the sport would be a more even-handed arbiter.

Christian Prudhomme, the head of the Tour, insisted there were "a lot of good things" this year: "The faces of the riders, burnt out, exhausted, mouths wide open at the end. ... The fight against doping has made enormous progress."

"The difference between those who cheat and those who

chase after them has considerably narrowed," he said.

Bordry pointed to laboratory proof. From the July 5 start in Brest until the first rest day in Pau 10 days later, blood parameters culled from dozens of anti-doping tests showed fewer anomalies on average, he said.

"That means that either the riders were in better health, or that it's proof they're not taking as many substances," he said.

Better yet for organizers, the race was intensifying after the Ricco bust. As racers began

three climbs through the Alps by riding into Italy in the 15th stage, five racers were within 49 seconds of then-leader Frank Schleck of Luxembourg—the last of them Sastre.

That's when the 33-year-old Spaniard, who now has six top-10 Tour finishes, took over. The climax for him came in the last and most punishing day in the Alps. He won Stage 17 and took the prized yellow jersey from Schleck, his CSC teammate.

Sastre had one final big hurdle: Saturday's time trial. Australia's Cadel Evans, known as an ace in the discipline, was seen as a favorite to recover the yellow jersey that he seized in the Pyrenees but had lost to Schleck.

Sastre knew he needed the time trial of his life to hold to a 1:34 lead against the Australian, and he got it. Evans made up only 29 seconds against the Spaniard, paving the way for his victory cruise—champagne in hand—into Paris.

By the finish on the Champs-

Elysees, Sastre finished seven seconds behind Evans, giving him a 58-second margin of victory. Bernhard Kohl of Austria finished 1:13 back in third, the second-tightest podium finish in the 105-year-old race.

Sastre crossed arms and buttoned helmets affectionately with CSC teammate Stuart O'Grady as they crossed the line behind Gert Steegmans of Belgium, who won the 21st and final stage in a sprint. Sastre was then surrounded by his family after getting off his bike.

"It's very moving," Sastre said, hugging his two children.

This is the third straight year a Spaniard captured the Tour. Alberto Contador won last year, and Oscar Pereiro inherited the 2006 title lost by American Floyd Landis in a doping scandal.

Sastre grew up in Leganes south of Madrid and became interested in racing at 8 years old when his father opened a cycling school.

"When he was young, we thought that one day he could attempt the Tour de France," Sastre's mother, Teresa, told Eurosport television from Spain. She said her son had "sacrificed" for this moment.

Television images showed hundreds of cheering fans pouring into the streets Sunday in the mountain village of El Barraco, where Sastre now has a home.

Sastre began racing in 1997 and has been involved with team managers with questionable doping histories.

In 2000, he made his pro-

fessional debut with the Once team, which was managed by Manolo Saiz. Saiz was one of five people arrested in 2006 as part of the Operation Puerto doping scandal, and is no longer

involved in the sport.

Now, Sastre rides for CSC's Danish owner Bjarne Riis. Riis stayed home from the 2007 Tour after admitting he used EPO from 1993-98, a span that

included his 1996 Tour title.

Aware of the doping cloud over cycling, Sastre put it bluntly after his victory appeared certain Saturday.

"I'm clean," he said.

**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES****MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
**East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	61	43	.587	—
Boston	61	45	.575	1
New York	58	46	.558	3
Toronto	53	52	.505	8 1/2
Baltimore	49	55	.471	12

**Central Division**

Chicago	59	44	.573	—
Minnesota	57	47	.548	2 1/2
Detroit	53	51	.510	6 1/2
Kansas City	47	59	.443	13 1/2
Cleveland	45	58	.437	14

**West Division**

Los Angeles	64	40	.615	—
Texas	54	51	.514	10 1/2
Oakland	53	51	.510	11
Seattle	39	65	.375	25

**NATIONAL LEAGUE****East Division**

New York	57	48	.543	—
Philadelphia	56	49	.533	1
Florida	55	50	.524	2
Atlanta	49	55	.471	7 1/2
Washington	38	67	.362	19

**Central Division**

Chicago	61	44	.581	—
Milwaukee	60	45	.571	1
St. Louis	58	49	.542	4
Cincinnati	50	56	.472	11 1/2
Houston	48	56	.462	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	48	57	.457	13

**West Division**

Arizona	53	51	.510	—
Los Angeles	52	52	.500	1
Colorado	48	58	.453	6
San Francisco	43	61	.413	10
San Diego	41	65	.387	13

**Yesterday's Games**

Minnesota 4, Cleveland 2  
Detroit 6, Chicago White Sox 4  
Seattle 5, Toronto 1  
Baltimore 5, L.A. Angels 2  
Kansas City 6, Tampa Bay 1  
Oakland 6, Texas 5  
Boston 9, N.Y. Yankees 2  
N.Y. Mets 9, St. Louis 1  
Colorado 11, Cincinnati 0  
San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 1  
Philadelphia 12, Atlanta 10  
Houston 11, Milwaukee 6  
Chicago Cubs 9, Florida 6  
Arizona 7, San Francisco 2  
L.A. Dodgers 2, Washington 0

**CANADIAN OPEN SCORES**

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Scores Sunday from the Canadian Open, a US\$5 million (3.2 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,222-yard, par-71 Glen Abbey Golf Club (a-amateur):

**FINAL ROUND**

Chez Reavie	65-64-68-70	267
Billy Mayfair	68-66-68-68	270
Sean O'Hair	65-71-67-68	271
Steve Marino	67-67-67-70	271
Nicholas Thompson	67-66-70-69	272
Mike Weir	65-70-68-69	272
Scott McCarron	66-72-63-71	272
Kevin Na	69-66-70-68	273
Glen Day	71-70-64-68	273
Anthony Kim	65-69-64-75	273
Briny Baird	69-65-71-69	274
Carl Pettersson	68-70-67-69	274
Ken Duke	68-67-69-70	274
Bob Estes	68-73-65-69	275
Charlie Wi	69-69-67-70	275
Jim Furyk	70-68-67-70	275
Carlos Franco	67-68-69-71	275
Brian Davis	69-64-70-72	275
Mark Calcavecchia	70-66-67-72	275
Fred Couples	69-69-70-68	276
Eric Axley	65-67-73-71	276
Kent Jones	71-70-69-67	277
Mark Wilson	71-69-69-68	277
Ryan Palmer	71-70-68-68	277
Omar Uresti	72-68-69-68	277
Martin Laird	71-67-69-70	277
John Huston	65-72-68-72	277

**Also**

24. Cadel Evans, Australia, Silence-Lotto, :07.  
26. Bernhard Kohl, Austria, Gerolsteiner, same time.  
30. Christian Vande Velde, United States, Garmin Chipotle, same time.  
62. Carlos Sastre, Spain, Team CSC, same time.

**Climber**

1. Team CSC Saxo Bank, 263 hours, 29 minutes, 57 seconds.  
2. AG2R-La Mondiale, 15 minutes, 35 seconds behind.  
3. Rabobank, 1:05:26.  
4. Euskaltel-Euskadi, 1:16:26.  
5. Silence-Lotto, 1:17:15.  
6. Caisse d'Epargne, 1:20:28.  
7. Team Columbia, 1:23:00.  
8. Lampre, 1:26:24.  
9. Gerolsteiner, 1:27:40.  
10. Credit Agricole, 1:37:16.  
11. Cofidis, 1:51:35.  
12. Liquigas, 2:13:21.  
13. Bouygues Telecom, 2:19:07.  
14. Garmin Chipotle, 2:31:05.  
15. Francaise des Jeux, 2:41:37.  
16. Team Milram, 3:13:24.  
17. Barloworld, 3:33:45.  
18. Quick Step, 3:44:10.  
19. Agritubel, 4:15:57.

**Youth**

1. Andy Schleck, Luxembourg, Team CSC Saxo Bank, 88:04:24.  
2. Roman Kreuziger, Czech Republic, Liquigas, 1:27 behind.  
3. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Liquigas, 17:01.  
4. Maxime Monfort, Belgium, Cofidis, 24:09.  
5. Eduardo Gonzalez, Spain, Agritubel, 1:08:34.

**Combative**

# O'l'Aces dominate FMI caging awards



Ed Diaz, Jack Lizama, and Jericho Cruz smile for the camera with O'l'Aces' Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League championship trophy.



Pennant champion and Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League runner-up Advance X-Terminators receive their second place trophy.



O'l'Aces' unstoppable scorer Fred Pelisamen poses with his open MVP trophy along with Friends of Mariana Islands officials and FMI caging coordinator Boy Garcia.



Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League 40-and-over champions GEC Pawnshop pose with their hardware.



O'l'Aces forward Jericho Cruz flashes the No. 1 sign after being named scoring champion of the open division.



Left, five of O'l'Aces players pose with the championship trophy after the awards ceremony of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League last July 22 was again interrupted by another power outage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. From left, Ed Diaz, Jack Lizama, Fred Pelisamen, Marvin Rabauliman, and Jericho Cruz.

Below left, O'l'Aces coach Sonny Flores receives his open division best coach award.

clinching 124-110 Game 3 victory.

Despite his scoring prowess, Pelisamen curiously did not end up as the scoring king of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League as that distinction belongs to his teammate and fellow swingman Jericho Cruz.

The CNMI Junior National player and former Garapan Roller averaged in excess of 32 points per game for the season to claim the top scoring honors.

Ariel Jinang of CTSI, meanwhile, was the scoring king of the 40-and-over division after the former MVP of the Tan Holdings inter-company league averaged more than 20 points a game.

Sonny Ranola, of 40-and-over champion GEC Pawnshop, was hailed the MVP of the age group, while O'l'Aces' Sonny Flores and Bank of Saipan's Jerry "Mutombo" Lopez were named best coach for the open and 40-and-over divisions, respectively.



**PHOTO AND TEXT By MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Powerhouse O'l'Aces not only won the championship of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League last July 22, but the team also went home with a boatload of hardware during the awards ceremony held immediately after.

Unstoppable offensive force Fred Pelisamen, for instance, bagged the

open division's most valuable player plum after leading the Oleai team to a 2-1 victory in their best-of-three championship against pennant titlist Advance X-Terminators.

Pelisamen, long regarded the islands' most productive scorer, averaged 50.6 points per game in the championship.

He scored 51 points in O'l'Aces 129-93 rout of the Bug Busters in Game 1, bettered that with a 52-point explosion in a 114-123 losing effort in Game 2, before capping his stellar finals performance with 49 points in O'l'Aces' title-



## Favre a no-show to Packers camp—for now

Brett Favre didn't report to the Green Bay Packers' training camp Sunday, temporarily easing tensions in the three-time MVP's ongoing standoff with the team.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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## Gossage, Williams inducted into Hall of Fame

For more than two decades, Rich "Goose" Gossage unnerved batters as one of baseball's most menacing and dominating relief pitchers. On Sunday, it was his turn for the jitters.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Sastre wins doping-scarred Tour de France

By JAMEY KEATEN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**F**rom the very start to the very finish, doping was along for the ride on the Tour de France. The final act Sunday was supposed to be a champagne-sipping, idyllic run to the Champs-Elysees for winner Carlos Sastre of Spain. Instead, it was yet another announcement of a positive drug test.

That the bust involved a Kazakh rider who was never in contention didn't matter. Once again, drugs left their mark at cycling's premier event.

Until Sunday's finale, the race had gone 10 days without a doping scandal—three others had already marred the



three-week race.

This time, Dmitriy Fofonov tested positive for a "very heavy dose" of heptaminol after Thursday's 18th stage, said Pierre Bordry, the head of France's anti-doping agency. Fofonov was immediately fired by his Credit Agricole team. French police said he was detained for questioning.

"These guys are crazy, and the sooner they start learning, the better," International Cycling Union chief Pat McQuaid said by phone. "You can never rule out at the Tour de France - the biggest event of the year - that these guys are going to take risks."

Sunday's doping episode gave the Tour a certain symmetry: Veteran Spanish rider Manuel Beltran tested positive

after the first stage.

Bordry said Fofonov was asked whether he had a medical exemption for heptaminol, and he did not provide one. The stimulant is used as a vasodilator that helps relieve bronchial spasms.

"Fofonov said he bought the product on the Internet," said Roger Legeay, sporting director of Credit Agricole. "He says that it was for cramps, but that he forgot to tell the team doctor."

Fofonov, known mainly as a strong climber, finished in 19th place in the Tour, 28 minutes, 31 seconds after Sastre.

Word of Fofonov's failed test came as some teams were still riding farewell laps in the French capital. The announcement compounded the damage of positive tests for the banned blood booster EPO—cycling's

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## Puerto Rico no-hits CNMI in 19-0 shutout

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI was shutout by Puerto Rico, 19-0, as the 2008 Big League World Series continued yesterday at the J.B. "Red" Owens Complex in Easley, South Carolina.

Latin America I champion's starting pitcher Angel Santiago recorded a no-hit complete game as the local Big Leaguers fell to their second straight mercy run-shortened loss, which followed their 1-16 setback against the Dominican Republic last Sunday.

Like its first game against the Latin America II champions, the Asia-Pacific champions struggled from the batter's box, but unlike their 1-16 mercy run-shortened loss against

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Nunu Kapileo of the CNMI in action in the homerun derby of the 2008 Big League World Series last Saturday at the J.B. "Red" Owens Complex in Easley, South Carolina.

ning Aug. 4, while Division II (12-14) will only play during weekends, according to Rangamar.

He added that uniforms—at least the top—are required for all teams wishing to take part in the 18-and-under competition.

For more inquiries about the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League, contact Rangamar at 664-2502.

The defending champion for the 2008 Rotary league is the Rufino Aguon-coached CNMI Junior Nationals, which beat the Southern Sonics in their winner-take-all finals late last year in a score of 98-91.

include; ground rules, league schedule, team registration forms, waiver forms, etc. All forms will be disseminated today. All requirements and forms are due this Thursday, July 31, no later than 4:30pm," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Earlier, Rangamar said the 18-and-under basketball competition is eyeing an Aug. 4 start. Entrance fee for the Rotary league is \$150 for the 15-18 division, while teams hoping to see action in the 14-and-under age group need only to fork over \$100.

Division I (15-18) will be played Monday to Friday begin-



AP  
Carlos Sastre of Spain reaches into the crowd as he celebrates during a victory lap after winning the Tour de France cycling race in Paris, France, Sunday July 27, 2008.

## Benefits of hosting an area championships

Now that the Oceania U18 and Open Championships are over, it is time to take stock and look at the incalculable benefits that have now flowed to Northern Marianas Athletics in particular and to the local sporting community in general.

First and foremost the CNMI now has a large number of athletes who have experienced international athletics and will be keen to make their presence felt, initially in their own country, then in Micronesian regional competition, and then in the wider Pacific region.



The six-year-old track at the Oleai Sports Complex is in excellent condition and with the new equipment, newly rekindled enthusiasm, and newly found talent the sport should flourish in CNMI in the years ahead.

Many of the CNMI athletes achieved personal bests, and some excelled. There were two athletes, in particular, who stood out, as they seemed always to be on the track or in the field. They were Ketsion "Jack" Kabiriel and Jacque Wonenberg. How many events between them did they enter? Seventeen-year-old Wonenberg entered the heptathlon (seven events) plus seven additional events. Kabiriel, aged 34, entered the octathlon (eight events)

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DAN KIMBALL  
The flags of the participating nations in the recent 2008 Oceania U18 and Open Championships fly high during the event held on Saipan.